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1989



A

HANDBOOK

FOR

TRAVELLERS IN SWITZERLAND

PART II

THE ALPS OF SAVOY AND PIEDMONT  
THE ITALIAN LAKES  
AND PART OF THE DAUPHINÉ

Eighteenth Edition

WITH MAPS, PLANS OF TOWNS, ETC.

*Including additional Information for 1900, and some new Maps  
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LONDON

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET

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1892

WITH INDEX AND DIRECTORY FOR

1900



THE Editor of the HANDBOOK for SWITZERLAND, PIEDMONT, and SAVOY, is very solicitous to be favoured with corrections of any mistakes and omissions which may be discovered by persons who have made use of the book. Those communications especially will be welcomed which are founded upon personal knowledge, and accompanied by the name of the writer to authenticate them. Travellers willing to make such communications are requested to have the kindness to address them to the Editor of the HANDBOOK, care of Mr. Murray, Albemarle Street.



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# HANDBOOK FOR SWITZERLAND AND SAVOY.

## PART II.

### ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

1900.

**Important.**—The special attention of travellers is called to the **New and carefully prepared Maps**, engraved on a large scale, which have now been inserted in the Handbook for Switzerland.

#### LIST OF NEW MAPS FOR PART II.

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These Maps, based on the survey commenced by Genl. Dufour, and now being completed by Col. Siegfried (among the best survey-maps in the world), are drawn with contours at intervals of 200 mètres in different tints of brown getting darker with the height until the glaciers are reached. The glaciers and snow fields are distinguished by a blue tint, and the flow of the glaciers is shown by dark blue lines. In order to keep the maps simple and clear, care has been taken to insert only names of importance and interest to travellers.

#### PAGE

431. M. L. Kurz's splendid map of the entire chain of **Mont Blanc** (published in 1896) is on a scale of 1: 50,000, and has superseded all others.

431, line 28. For 'Loescher's' read 'Carlo Clausen's.'

446, cols. 1 and 2. The char road through the **Val Centovalli** is now completed as far as Camedo, the highest Swiss village, which is 2 hrs. from Rê by a steep zigzag and then a beautiful terrace path on the Italian side: it is proposed soon to supply the missing link.

451. A permanent **Fine Arts Exhibition** (in a specially constructed building) was opened at **Lugano** in April, 1892.

- 456, col. 1. A hut has been built by the Como section of the Italian Alpine Club, on the shores of the **Lago di Darengo** (5834 ft.) above Livo in the beautiful but little known hill country above Domaso and Gravedona, which may well be explored from the new hut as a centre.
- 457, col. 1. A railway ( $30\frac{1}{2}$  miles, traversed in  $1-1\frac{3}{4}$  hrs.) now runs from **Lecco to Colico** along the E. shore of the Lakes of Lecco and Como, thus affording a direct railway route from Milan to the Valtellina.
- 463, col. 2. Omegna. Omit 'There is a tiny steamer on the lake.'
- 474, col. 1. The height of **Fee** is 5899 feet, not 5299.
- 474, col. 2. A little inn (**H. Weissmies**) has now been opened above the **Trift Alp**, 3 hrs. from Saas.
- 481, col. 2. 20 min. below Gressoney La Trinité is the new and first class **Hôtel Miravalle**.
- 484, col. 1. There is now a char road from **Gressoney La Trinité to Pont St. Martin**.
- 484, col. 2. In the Church of San Sebastiano at Biella there is a fine bust of La Marmora, who commanded the Piedmontese forces in the Crimea.
- 485, col. 1, par. 3. After 'Glacier of Val d'Aosta' add 'The drive is charming, past the Castello of Nigra, the diplomatist, with fine views as you climb the hill; from several points showing the pretty Lago d'Azeglio, on the shore of which, on Sept. 5, 1896, the monument of Massimo d'Azeglio was unveiled.'
- 487, col. 1, line 4 from bottom. For '*St. Grat*' read '*Estoul*.'
493. An electric **Railway from Zermatt to the Gornergrat** (1 hr. 20 min.) with stations at the Riffel Alp and Riffelberg Hôtels, was opened in 1898.
- 493, col. 1. There is now the hideous **Hotel Restaurant Belvédère** on the summit of the **Gornergrat**, which spoils the view.
494. There are now inns, of various sizes, in the **Trift gorge**, by the **Findelen Glacier**, on the **Staffel Alp**, on the **Fluh Alp** and on the **Täsch Alp**.
- 496, col. 2. In 1895 the **Bétemps Club hut**, a sort of small inn, with resident caretaker, was opened on the Plattje rocks,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the upper Riffel inn. By sleeping here the ascent of Monte Rosa is considerably shortened.
- 497, col. 2. The height of the **Matterhorn** is 14,780 ft., not 14,705.
- 505, col. 1. There is now a char road (11 miles) from the village of **Valtournanche** itself to **Châtillon**.
- 514, col. 1. In 1897 the new **Kurhaus d'Arolla** was opened, 300 ft. above the level of the valley, and in a fine position.
527. Mules can now be taken to within a short  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour of the summit of the **Crammont**.
- 531 and 533. The char road is now completed on the Swiss side as far as the Hospice on the Great St. Bernard.



- 537-8. The char road up the Val de Bagnes is now completed as far as **Fionnay**, the favourite place of sojourn in the upper part of the valley.
- 539, col. 2. Great floods (both due to the breaking out of a lake at the foot of the Crête Sèche glacier) occurred at the head of the Val de Bagnes on June 28, 1894 ; and another in 1898.
541. The path from **Mauvoisin** to the head of the Val de Bagnes now keeps to the left bank of the Dranse, till it crosses to the right bank just below the ruined Lancey inn. Just above these ruins, at a bifurcation, the l.-hand path leads to the new Chanrion Club hut, while the r.-hand path descends to recross the Dranse and then mounts past the Chermontane huts to the Col de Fenêtre.
- 544, and 546, col. 1. In 1898 the **Railway from Cluses to the Le Fayet station** (for St. Gervais) was opened (13 m.; traversed in about  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr.): thence to Chamonix the line will be worked by electricity (at present diligence in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.).
- 545 and 658. There is now a steam tramway from **Annemasse to Samoëns** ( $27\frac{1}{2}$  miles, 3 hrs.) past **St. Jeoire**, whence there is a branch line (5 miles, 35 min.) to **Marignier**, a station on the railway from Annemasse to Cluses (p. 545).
- 547, col. 2. The **Baths of St. Gervais** were carried away in 1892 by a fall from a glacier on the Aig. du Goûter, which caused a great flood, but have been rebuilt lower down, about 10 min. from Le Fayet, with which they are connected by a carriage road.
552. In 1897 an Inn on the summit of the **Brévent** was opened.
- 575, col. 2. There is now a rough char road from **Aymaville to Cogne**.
581. Read throughout 'Pont' for 'Ponte.' Last line of Rte. 146, for '31 m.' read ' $20\frac{1}{2}$  m.'
590. **Mont Blanc** is not seen from the Little St. Bernard Hospice, but is seen from the Verney lake, whence too the Combin and the Mont Vélan form prominent features in the fine view.
596. A funicular **Railway** was opened in 1892, from *Aix-les Bains* to the summit of the **Grand Revard** (5069 ft.), whence there is a very fine view. It passes by Moux, and the distance ( $5\frac{1}{2}$  m.) is traversed in 1 hr. The rly. company intend to construct a large Inn near the stat.
- 596 and 603. There is now a steam tramway from **Voiron past St. Laurent du Pont to the St. Béron station** on the railway from Chambéry to St. André le Gaz, which greatly facilitates an excursion to the monastery of the **Grande Chartreuse**, whether from Grenoble or from Chambéry. It is  $11\frac{1}{4}$  miles from Voiron to St. Laurent, and thence 4 miles to Les Echelles, which is 6 miles from St. Béron.
- 602, col 1, line 11. From **Annecy** it is a drive of 10 m. to the Col de Leschaux (8 m. from Châtelard in the Beauges), whence a mule path leads in  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 hrs. to the H. and P. du Semnoz-Alpes (open in spring and summer only) on the summit of the **Semnoz**.

- 605, col. 2. There is now a **steam tramway** from **Pontcharra** stat. to **Allevard** (9 miles).
- 616, 617. The **Railway** from **Albertville** to **Moutiers Tarentaise** (17 miles, 55 min.) is now open, and greatly facilitates access to the now fashionable resort of **Brides les Bains**.
- 622, col. 2. In 1895 the Lyons section of the French Alpine Club opened a new and comfortable **Chalet Hôtel** at **Bonneval** (to which the epithet 'sur Arc' has been added to distinguish it from another place of the same name, near Bourg St. Maurice), which is now by far the best headquarters in the upper Maurienne, and is a pendant to the good little inn at Val d'Isère, on the other side of the Col d'Iseran.
- 627, col. 1, lines 9, 10. For 'impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen' read 'alkaline (a modified form of those at Carlsbad).'
- 630, col. 1. There is now a roundabout **char road** through the Arvan valley from St. Jean de Maurienne to St. Jean d'Arves.
- 631 and 636. **Breaks** now run (in correspondence with the P. L. M. trains) from St. Michel over the **Col du Galibier** to the Lautaret Hospice (8 $\frac{3}{4}$  hrs., but 6 hrs. only in the reverse direction).
- 632, col. 1. There is now a **steam tramway** from **Vizille** stat. to **Bourg d'Oisans** (22 miles, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.). At the latter place there are now the first class **Grand Hôtel** de l'Oisans, not far from the station, and the excellent **Hôtel** de l'Oberland Français, opposite the station. Breaks now run, in correspondence with the trains, from Bourg d'Oisans across the Col du Lautaret to Briançon (9 hrs.—8 hrs. in the reverse direction).
- 634, col. 1. The **char road** from the **Bourg d'Arud** hamlet of **Vénosc** to **St. Christophe** is now completed, and the télégraph extended as far as the latter place. Joseph Turc, who lives in that village, is strongly recommended as a good and capable guide.
- 635, 636. Above La Grave there is now the **Chalet Hôtel Chancel** (or de la Lauze) on the way to the Col de la Lauze, and it is proposed to build a **Club hut** at the **Rocher de l'Aigle** for the ascent of the Pic Central, and the Grand Pic de la Meije, the traverse being now frequently made. Above Villard d'Arène is the little inn at the **Alpe chalets**, while from one of the zigzags on the way up to the Col du Lautaret a momentary glimpse of the Ecrins (the monarch of the Dauphiné Alps) is gained. The accommodation at the **Lautaret Hospice** has been vastly improved, and a large dépendance (in the Swiss chalet style) built just opposite.
- 638-9. A new inn (H. Rolland) was opened in 1897 near the **Ailefroide chalets**. The usual starting-point for the Pelvoux is now the **Provence Club hut** (rebuilt on an improved plan), 4 hrs. above Ailefroide, while the **Césanne Club hut** has been removed to the l. bank of the torrent in the St. Pierre valley, 1 hr. above Ailefroide.
- 653, col. 2. The **char road** across the **Col d'Izouard** is now completed, thus opening up direct communication by carriage between Briançon and the Queyras.
- 670, col. 1. St. Martin Lantosque has now been renamed **St. Martin Vésubie**, from the river on which it stands.



# THE ALPS OF SAVOY AND PIEDMONT,

INCLUDING THE ITALIAN LAKES, THE PENNINE ALPS,  
AND PART OF THE DAUPHINÉ.

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## PRELIMINARY INFORMATION<sup>1</sup>.

### CONTENTS :

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| 1. GENERAL INFORMATION. | 4. GUIDES.         |
| 2. INNS.                | 5. BOOKS AND MAPS. |
| 3. ROADS, MULES, &c.    | 6. SKELETON TOURS. |

§ 1. THE country dealt with in the second portion of this work is the Alpine region bounded by the Rhone Valley and the Simplon Pass on the one side, and the sea and the Col de Tenda on the other, which may be comprehensively described as the Western Alps, together with the Lake District of Lombardy.

In dealing with so extensive a region in a limited space, selection has been necessary. While the Pennine Alps are fully described, the chief routes only in the remoter districts have been followed out. A considerable amount of information, however, has been added in every part of the section, and especially with regard to the glacier group of Dauphiné.

The Western Alps, as above defined, are divided between Switzerland, France, and Italy. The Swiss frontier follows the crest of the Pennine chain and the watershed of the Rhone Valley to the Lake of Geneva.

**Savoy**, in which Mt. Blanc and Chamonix are situated, became French in 1860. It consists of two Departments—*Haute Savoie* (including the Chablais, the Faucigny, and the Gênévois), between the Lake of Geneva and a line drawn from Mont Blanc to the Lake of Bourget, passing S. of Annecy,—and *Savoie*, between that line and another drawn westward from Mont Cenis. Upper Savoy has *Annecy* for its chief town, Savoy *Chambéry*; in the former are Chamonix and Mont Blanc, in the latter are the mountain valleys of the Isère or *Tarentaise*, and the Arc or *Maurienne*.

**Piedmont** has on its N. and W. sides a clearly defined boundary in the Alps. From the valley of the Tosa, which lies within its territory, to the Simplon it is divided from Switzerland by the Lepontine Alps; from the Simplon to the Col Ferret by the Pennine Alps; from the Col Ferret to the Mont Cenis from Savoy by the chain of Mont

<sup>1</sup> For general information, see the Introduction to the previous part of this work to which the following pages are supplementary.

Blanc and Graian Alps ; from Mont Cenis to the Col de l'Argentière, at the head of the valley of the Stura, from the French Departments of Hautes Alpes and Basses Alpes, parts of the old provinces of Dauphiné and Provence, by the Cottian Alps ; while from the Argentière to near the Col de Tenda or to the sources of the Tanaro in the Monte Schiavo, southern Piedmont is separated by the Maritime Alps from the Department of Alpes Maritimes, or County of Nice.

South of the Pennines the next division of the Alpine chain is known as the **Graian Alps**. They have been divided into : 1. the Cogne district, the Eastern or Italian Graians ; 2, the main chain from the Little St. Bernard to the Mont Cenis, the Central Graians ; 3. the ranges between the valleys of the Isère and Arc, the Western or French Graians. These beautiful groups include respectively (1) the *Grivola* and *Grand Paradis* (13,324 ft.), (2) the *Levanna*, *Ciamarella*, *Albaron*, and *Charbonel* (12,336 ft.) ; (3) the elegant *Mont Pourri*, and the *Grande Casse* (12,668 ft.).

The **Cottian Alps** extend from the pass of Mont Cenis to the Col de l'Argentière. In *Monte Viso* they attain 12,609 ft., but their summits average 10,000 ft. They are wild and craggy, and remarkable for the rich colouring of their chlorite slate and serpentine rocks, and the transparency of the streams. On the Italian side of this chain are the romantic Vaudois valleys.

The **Dauphiné Alps**, though included among the Cottians, are outliers of the main chain, seated far within the frontier of France, but for height and grandeur of scenery take rank next to the Pennine and Oberland groups. The *Pointe des Ecrins*, their pre-eminent peak, is 13,462 ft. above the sea, and three others approach or exceed 13,000 ft. ; seventeen 12,000 ft. ; and twenty-nine, 11,000 ft.

The **Maritime Alps** are a knot of rugged granite summits conspicuous from Cannes and the plain of Piedmont. The highest peaks range from 10,000 to 10,827 ft. and sustain some small glaciers.

Some of the approaches to this mountain region are through singularly deep and sterile defiles or *combes*, 'often,' says Forbes, 'of fantastical sublimity, thinly-peopled, and extending many miles.'

On the side of Italy the Alps offer a striking difference in their appearance from that presented in the approaches from Switzerland or France. In the latter cases, the intervention of secondary ranges, and the long valleys, preclude the possibility of any great extent of the chain being seen at the same time ; but from the plains of Piedmont, even from Turin—not 30 miles in a direct line from the nearest point in the crest—a range of the central peaks and passes, extending through 130 miles, is visible. A day's journey is sufficient for the ascent to the main ridge of the Alps from the plains of Piedmont ; whilst on the other side two or three days of approach through deep valleys amidst the mountains are requisite for its attainment. The *Italian* Alpine valleys, with their umbrageous chestnuts, trellised vines, campaniles, mills, and fresco-painted oratories on commanding knolls, are full of pictures, and differ entirely from the Swiss valleys, which are simpler and sterner of aspect.



There is no need to recommend Zermatt and Chamonix to tourists ; and the halting-places in the intervening valleys on the Swiss side of the chain, St. Luc, Evolena, and Arolla, now attract their fair share of attention. But it is somewhat singular that so small a proportion of the visitors to these favourite centres make the tour of the Southern valleys of Monte Rosa, or even pass by the St. Théodule to Val d'Aosta. The tourists who visit the superb ice scenery of Cogne scarcely increase in numbers, though the accommodation is now fair. Val Anzasca, Val Sesia, Val d'Aosta, and its tributary valleys, naturally unite with a Swiss tour. So also do the valleys of Canton Ticino, and the Val Bregaglia. Those who wander farther south are generally more or less seasoned travellers. These know how to choose their own paths. The Val de Tignes and Pralognan in the Tarentaise, the Valli di Lanzo, easily accessible from Turin, the Vaudois valleys, the singular region of the Queyras, Crissolo at the base of Monte Viso, the health resorts in the Maritime Alps, and last but not least, La Bérarde, Ville Vallouise, and La Grave in Dauphiné, may be recommended as centres of attraction.

The scenery of the *Waldensian Valleys* is rich and pleasing, though not of the highest order, and they are attractive to Englishmen as the last stronghold of a brave and steadfast Protestant community, formerly much troubled by persecution, fire, and sword. Milton and Wordsworth have commemorated the patient sufferings and heroic deeds of the Vaudois ; and Dr. Gilly in recent times has rendered their story fascinating by the charm of an enthusiastic pen.

The Piedmontese and Subalpine valleys furnish a large number of emigrants, sometimes only for a part of the year, and supply all Europe with workmen in particular trades. From the Engadine come pastry-cooks ; from Como, thermometer and barometer makers ; from Orta, plasterers ; Biella, masons and builders ; Canavese, carpenters ; Val Sesia, masons ; Val Blenio, chocolate makers and chestnut roasters ; Val Calanca, glaziers ; Val Bregaglia, chimney-sweepers ; Val Mastallone, cooks ; Ticino, coffee-house keepers. They are usually men of great industry and frugality, and, if possible, return to their native valleys to enjoy the fruits of their industry. Throughout Switzerland and in the mountain districts of France, wherever a good house, building, or road is wanted, Piedmontese are employed ; and the railways in Switzerland, even that up to Lauterbrunnen and Grindelwald, were chiefly made by Piedmontese. In consequence of the great male emigration, most of the hard work is done by women, particularly portage over the mountains ; and from long practice, the women are better able to carry weights on their backs than the men. The valleys on the S. side of Monte Rosa are remarkable as being inhabited in the higher villages by a race of German origin and language, which came from the Valais in the 13th cent.

The best season for travelling in this part of the Alpine chain is the early summer, when the mountains are green and their rich *flora* in blossom. In July and August the heat, particularly in the southern districts, is very considerable. In September, after a short break, the weather generally becomes settled again ; and the latter half of that month and the beginning of October is a pleasant season for

travelling in the southern valleys. At this season, however, the bath-houses used as summer resorts by Italians are shut up, having only opened about the beginning of July.

It is a common mistake to visit the Italian Lakes too early—in March or April—when the weather is generally broken, and the vegetation only half out. May and June are here the perfect months. The corn is by that time tall, and the vines have put forth their shoots. The snows still lingering on the higher mountains shine through the rose thickets of the gardens on the lakes, which resound, night and day, with choirs of nightingales. The hillsides are pink with cyclamen, and hung with laburnum-blossoms, the upper pasturages carpeted with the most exquisite wild flowers. The atmosphere has a fresh purity which it loses after the midsummer heats, and which adds both to the beauty of the landscape and to the traveller's power of enjoyment.

The absence of agreeable short walks is, to those who then reside on the lakes, the one drawback. Intercourse being generally carried on by water, the paths are, as a rule, for the first 500 or 1000 ft., or until the region of vineyards has been passed, steep and rough stair-cases, too often enclosed between high walls.

§ 2. *Inns*.—The *Inns* within the frontier of Italy were formerly vastly inferior in accommodation, and especially in cleanliness, to those of Switzerland and Germany; and even now the traveller must not expect, in remote villages, or at houses frequented chiefly by Italians, the cleanliness and comfort to which he is accustomed in similar cases in Switzerland. The more frequented villages have now, however, good hotels, and those built on the lakes, as at Baveno, Pallanza, Stresa, Bellagio, Cadenabbia, &c., are magnificent and luxurious palaces, equal to the best in Switzerland. Of another type, as being frequented mainly by Italians of the higher classes, are the excellent establishments at Pesio, Valdieri, and Ceresole; and the less pretentious ones at Bardonnèche and San Dalmazzo di Tenda.

In *Val d'Aosta* there are some good hotels, particularly at *Aosta* itself and *Courmayeur*; at *Cogne*, and *Valsavaranche*, rough or homely quarters; at *Gressoney*, at *Breuil*, at *Alagna*, and at *Macugnaga*, comfortable hotels; as also at *Bignasco* in *Val Maggia*, within the Swiss frontier.

Until the last few years the Dauphiné mountains, though yielding to none in grandeur, were but seldom visited, and the accommodation in the district was execrable. The mountain ranges have now been fully explored by mountaineers, and their frequent visits, and the active measures taken by the residents at Grenoble, have led to an extraordinary improvement in the hotels and guides throughout the district. At *Monestier*, *Ville Vallouise*, *La Grave*, *St. Christophe*, and *La Bérarde* fair charges, clean beds, and enough to eat are now found. A similar improvement is in progress in the valleys of the Tarentaise, and in a few years this region, lying within easy reach of Aix-les-Bains, particularly at *Brides*, *Val d'Isère*, and *Pralognan* should become frequented. In the remoter valleys of the French and



Piedmontese Alps the adventurous traveller may be sure of a cordial reception, but also of decidedly rough quarters.

When the traveller in the Alps receives the hospitality of the *curés* of retired villages (or of the pastor in the Waldensian valleys), where there are no inns, it is usual to leave with the housekeeper, or for her, a donation, which it is just should at least equal the cost of such accommodation at an inn; the tax would otherwise be heavy upon the limited means of the host, and kindness and attention are thus insured to future travellers. For supper, bed, and breakfast, 5 or 6 fr. are given. The *curés* in these valleys are not often much superior to the ordinary peasants, from whom they have sprung, and their income is very limited. They are, however, occasionally ardent mountaineers and hunters.

In Piedmont a rough 'patois' is spoken, but the traveller will almost always find French serve him for necessities, and Italian is everywhere understood. In the Waldensian Valleys, and in one at least of the valleys around Monte Viso, a French dialect is commonly spoken by the natives, though the Italian Government is trying to suppress it.

§ 3. **Roads, Mules, &c.**—The *Roads* skirting the Alps, and the approaches to them from the plains of Piedmont, and in Savoy, are generally excellent. Many of the valleys on the Italian side are traversed by roads made at the expense of the communes, which are marvels of industry and engineering art. Wherever there is intercourse there is a good road adapted to the wants of the inhabitants. Chars may generally be obtained at moderate charges.

*Mules* may be obtained on all routes accessible to them, at charges varying from 5 to 7 francs a day; *guides*, at 5 to 7 francs a day, may be had in many Alpine villages of Piedmont. Ladies now find *side-saddles* in many places.

§ 4. **Guides.**—More caution should be exercised in choosing *Guides* in these districts of the Alps than in Switzerland, as guides by profession are rarer. No one should be accepted without sufficient evidence, both of *good character* and experience, from the innkeeper, the *curé*, or some respectable person of his village. Quite recently the Italian Alpine Club has organized a body of guides in the Piedmontese Alpine valleys, issuing licences to qualified persons only, and fixing a very moderate tariff for all the mountain excursions and ascents. Before engaging a guide he should be asked to show his licence and his book with certificates from former employers. In the Tarentaise and the Dauphiné, the guides have also been placed under regulations by the local section of the French Alpine Club or a local Alpine Society. At Courmayeur, at Breuil, and in the villages on the S. side of Monte Rosa, there is now a supply of guides; but, with the exception of one or two Breuil and Courmayeur men, they are not equal, for glacier expeditions, to good Swiss guides. In Dauphiné there are several guides capable of any ordinary glacier work, such as the Gaspards of St. Christophe, the first conquerors of the Meije. In the Tarentaise there are some fair

local guides, but one only in the Cogne district. At Crissolo, near Monte Viso, guides for the ascent of that noble peak are now found.

At no place is so much caution in choosing a guide requisite as at Chamonix, owing to the pernicious system by which muleteers are placed on the roll of guides, and entitled to their turn of service. The exertions of the Alpine Club have succeeded in establishing exemptions, the practical effect of which is to relieve all who know how to avail themselves of them from the rule of rotation (see Chamonix).

§ 5. **Books and Maps.**—The intelligent traveller finds his map even more indispensable than a guide, and the notes given in the *Introduction* are therefore here repeated.

The traveller will find serviceable, *Ball's* 'South-Western Alps' and 'Pennine Alps,' 2s. 6d. each, though the information in them is very antiquated; *Joanne's* 'Savoie' (1891), 'Alpes Dauphinoises' (1890 and 1892), and 'Provence' (1890), which are full of recent and accurate information; *King's* 'Italian Valleys of the Pennine Alps,' and *Freshfield's* 'Italian Alps.'

The following local handbooks may be useful:—

PERTUSI E RATTI.—'Guida pel villeggiante nel Biellese.' 2nd edition, 1887.

GORRET ET BICH.—'Guide de la Vallée d'Aoste.' 1876.

RATTI E CASANOVA.—'Guida Illustrata della Valle d'Aosta.' 2nd edition, 1889. Specially good on the city of Aosta and Courmayeur.

VACCARONE E NIGRA.—'Guida Itinerario per le valli dell' Orco, di Soana, e di Chiussella.' 1878.

GIANSEVERO.—'Guida Generale ai Grandi Laghi Subalpini.' Milan, 1890. (The most recent guidebook to the Italian Lakes.)

BAZETTA ET BRUSONI.—'Guide de l'Ossola.' 3rd edition, 1889, 3 francs.

Mountaineers will find all necessary information in

MR. CONWAY'S 'Climbers' Guide to the Central Pennine Alps.' 1890-1. Vols. 1 and 2 extend from the Col. Ferret to the Simplon. Fisher Unwin. 10s. each.

M. KURZ'S 'Climbers' Guide to the Chain of Mont Blanc.' 1892. Fisher Unwin. 10s.

SIGNORI MARTELLI E VACCARONE'S 'Guida delle Alpi Occidentali.' Vols. 1 and 2 extend from the Maritime Alps to the Southern range of the Cogne district, Vol. 3 to be issued in 1891 will take in Cogne and part of the ranges around the Val d'Aosta. 5 francs a volume. Turin, 1889.

Special Climbers' Guides for the Cogne, and Tarentaise districts are in preparation by experts.

The 'Guide du Haut Dauphiné,' by Messrs. Coolidge, Duhamel and Perrin (Gratier, Grenoble, 1887), with a supplement issued in 1890, 10 fr., and supplement 2 fr., contains full details of the glacier region of the Dauphiné Alps, with an excellent map of the district. A thoroughly revised edition (in English) of this book (10s.), and of the maps (3s. 6d. bound in cloth), appeared in 1892. Fisher Unwin.

Within the Swiss frontier the Government maps satisfy all possible requirements.

In the Savoy Alps the French Ordnance Survey is the best map, 'Carte de l'Etat Major,'  $\frac{1}{800000}$ , 1 fr. a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -sheet in Paris (copper-plate),



40 c. lithograph. The 'Carte de la Frontière des Alpes,' on the same scale, is a reproduction of a part of this map in smaller sheets (1 fr. each), with contour lines. The new French Government map in colours on a scale of  $\frac{1}{100000}$  is just completed for the S.W. Alps, and contains the latest information, 80 centimes a sheet in Paris.

Mieulet (1865) and Viollet-le-Duc (1879) have published special maps of the Mont Blanc chain.

The French Alpine Club published (1874) a map of the Pelvoux group,  $\frac{1}{40000}$ ; but by far the best map of the glacier region of Dauphiné is the admirably clear and accurate one by M. Duhamel mentioned above (scale  $\frac{1}{100000}$ ).

For the Piedmontese Alps there is the new Government Survey ( $\frac{1}{100000}$ ). This is now to be obtained in Turin (Crespi; Via Lagrange) at 50 centimes the sheet (1s. the sheet at Stanford's).

The southern spurs of the Pennine chain, and portions of the Graian Alps, were mapped by the individual enterprise of members of the Alpine Club, and particularly of Messrs. Adams Reilly and Nichols.

The late Mr. A. Reilly published maps of 'The Southern Valleys of Monte Rosa' and 'The Mont Blanc Chain' (Longmans), both now out of print.

The south-western sheet of the Alpine Club map, edited by Mr. R. C. Nichols (3 m. to the inch,  $\frac{1}{25000}$ ), includes Val d'Aosta and the greater part of Savoy; the south-eastern sheet the Italian Lakes and Bergamasque Alps. Its scale is, however, somewhat too small for the amount of detail given, so that an enlarged edition was issued in 1881 (1 m. to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch,  $\frac{1}{100000}$ ).

At Loescher's Library, 19, Via di Po, Turin, most books and maps relating to the Piedmontese Alps can be obtained. At Grenoble the traveller will find in the publications of the Société des Touristes du Dauphiné many useful facts as to guides and accommodation.

§ 6. **Custom-houses.**—The examination on entering Italy by any of the carriage-roads or by steamer is generally slight, and civilly conducted. That at *Chiasso*, on the St. Gotthard line, is an unfortunate exception, and is one of the most disagreeable in Europe.

Travellers leaving Italy are warned that in order to prevent the exportation of valuable ancient works of art the customs officers are empowered to stop in transit any object, however small or trifling in value, which they may consider anterior in date to the present century, and that they use this power with more zeal than knowledge, to the great detriment of Italian trade.

§ 7. **Skeleton Tours** are subjoined. The first three show how travellers able to ride, but unwilling to undertake fatiguing expeditions, or to submit to bad accommodation, may best see the districts here described. It should be remembered that Turin is an excellent base for a mountain tour, where maps, books, or a store of portable preserved provisions, can be laid in. See also *Introd.* § 8.

*I. Tour in the Pennine Alps and Italian Lakes.*

Geneva to Chamonix.  
 Tête Noire to the Tête Noire Inn.  
 Col de Balme to Chamonix.  
 Brévent.  
 Montenvers.  
 Chamonix to Courmayeur, by the Col  
 de Voza, Col du Bonhomme and  
 Col de la Seigne.  
 Courmayeur to Aosta.  
 St. Rémy.  
 Hospice of the Great St. Bernard.  
 Martigny. (*See SWITZERLAND, Rte. 56.*)  
 Sion (Rly.)  
 Evolena.  
 Excursion to Arolla.  
 Zinal by Col de Torrent.  
 St. Luc.  
 Gruben by Zmeiden Pass.  
 St. Niklaus by Augstbord Pass, as-  
 cending Schwarzhorn on the way.  
 Zermatt, Riffelberg, &c.  
 St. Théodule. (Foot or chaise-à-  
 porteurs.)  
 Châtillon, Val d'Aosta.  
 Col de Jon.

Col de la Ranzola.  
 Gressoney.  
 Col d'Olen (Inn).  
 Alagna.  
 Varallo, Val Sesia, Val Mastallone.  
 Col de Colma.  
 Orta, on Lake of Orta. Monte  
 Mottarone.  
 Vogogna.  
 Macugnaga Val Anzasca.  
 Monte Moro Pass.<sup>1</sup>  
 Saas. Excursion to Fee.  
 Visp.  
 Pass of the Simplon.  
 Domo d'Ossola.  
 Cannobio, by Val Cannobina.  
 Locarno (excursions to Val Maggia,  
 Vol Verzasca, and Val Onsernone).  
 Stresa (steamer).  
 Varese.  
 Lugano.  
 Monte Generoso.  
 Lake of Como  
 Home by St. Gotthard or by Milan,  
 Turin, and Mont Cenis.

*II. Tour in Savoy and the Graian Alps, starting from Aix-les-Bains.*

Annecy.  
 Albertville.  
 Brides-les-Bains.  
 Pralognan.  
 Col de la Vanoise.  
 Col de la Leisse to Tignes and Val  
 d'Isère.  
 Lanslebourg by Col d'Iseran.  
 Mont Cenis  
 Turin.  
 Lanzo (excursions to Balme and  
 Forno).

Ceresole, by Col della Crocetta or  
 Col della Piccola (foot), or return  
 to Lanzo and drive to Locana.  
 Locana. Ponte.  
 Cogne, by Col della Nouva.  
 Excursion to the Trajo Glacier  
 (Partly foot.)  
 Aosta.  
 Becca di Nona.  
 Ivrea.  
 Biella by Oropa.  
 Varallo.

*III. Tour in the Dauphiné Alps, the Vaudois Valleys, and by Monte Viso to the Maritime Alps.*

Grenoble.  
 La Grave.  
 Excursion to Plateau d'Emparis.  
 Monestier.  
 Ville Vallouise, by Col de l'Eychauda.  
 Briançon.

Césanne.  
 Col de Sestrières.  
 Ascend Rognosa di Sestrières.  
 Pragelas—Val Clusone.  
 Perosa.  
 Val Germanasca and Balsille.

<sup>1</sup> Those who wish to avoid the Moro will return to Domo d'Ossola and drive to Cannobio Rte. 113), or make a tour by the Simplon, Furka, and St. Gotthard Passes.



Prali by Fontaine, Rodoretto, and Galmond.	Château Dauphin (Castel Del-fino).
Col Julien.	Colle della Bicocca to Val Maira.
Bobbio.	Cuneo.
La Tour (Torre Pellice).	Certosa of Pesio. Besimauda.
Val Angrogna.	Tenda.
Rora.	Col de Tenda.
Luserna.	Baths of Valdieri.
Crissolo by Col de Sea Bianca.	Col della Ciriegia (Col de Cérèze).
Sources of the Po and Traversette tunnel.	St. Martin Lantosque.
	Nice.

#### IV. A Walking Tour in the Dauphiné and Cottian Alps.

Grenoble.	Excursions from La Tour.
Grande Chartreuse.	Val Pellice to Bergerie de Pra.
St. Laurent du Pont.	By Monte Meidassa and Col del Luissas, or by Col de Seylières and Col de la Traversette, to Crissolo.
Chambéry by Les Echelles.	Col delle Sagnette to Castel Del-fino.
Dent du Chat.	Col de Vallante to Abriès.
Aix les Bains.	Ascend Bric Froid.
Visit Haute Combe.	Briançon.
Over Dent de Nivolet to Montmélian.	Ville Vallouise.
Baths of Allevard.	To La Bérarde by Col de la Temple.
Inn at the Sept Laux.	Bourg d'Oisans.
Bourg d'Oisans.	Grenoble.
La Grave.	Visit limestone district of the Ver-cors, Royannais, and Dévoluy (see HANDBOOK TO FRANCE, Rtes. 311, 312, 314, and 316).
Col des Arsines to Monestier.	
Briançon.	
Mont Genève to Césanne.	
Fénestrelles, Col d'Albergian, and Val Germanasca to Perrero.	
Infernetto to Val Angrogna and La Tour de Luserne (Torre Pellice).	

#### V. A Tour for practised climbers, with glacier guides, in the South-Western Alps, from Aix-les-Bains or Courmayeur.

To Bourg St. Maurice.	[Excursion to Glacier de la Vanoise (Dôme de Chasseforêt).]
Ascend Mont Pourri—descend to Ste. Foy.	Col de Chavière or across Péclet group, to Modane and St. Jean de Maurienne.
Cross Rutor to Fornet in Val Grisanche.	To St. Jean d'Arves.
Ascend Bec d'Invergnan and descend to Notre Dame de Rhêmes (or back to Fornet and next day to Notre Dame over Colle della Finestra).	Ascend Grandes Rousses (N. peak), and descend to Bourg d'Oisans.
To Tignes or Val d'Isère over the Granta Parey or the Aig. de la Sassièrè or Tsanteleina or Pointe de la Galise.	To St. Christophe.
Col de la Leisse and Grande Motte, to Entre deux Eaux.	Ascend Aig. du Plat (marvellous panorama).
Col de la Vanoise to Pralognan, ascending Grande Casse <i>en route</i> .	To La Bérarde.
	[Ascend Sommet des Rouies or Grande Ruine or Pic Coolidge or Plaret.]
	To La Chapelle en Val Gaudemar.
	Ascend Pic d'Olan, descending to La Lavey.

- Return to La Bérarde by Col de la Lavey, ascending the Tête de l'Etret or Pointe des Etages on the way.  
 Col du Sélé to Vallouise.  
 Bivouac at Refuge Tuckett.  
 Ascend Pointe des Ecrins, and descend, by S. face of peak or by Col des Ecrins, to La Bérarde.  
 Brèche de la Meije to La Grave.  
 Col de Martignare, or Col Lombard with perhaps the S. Aig. d'Arves, to chalets of Rieublan.  
 Cross Col des Aig. d'Arves (ascending N. or Central Aig. d'Arves from col) to Valloire and St. Michel.  
 To Bonneval or Bessans, perhaps halting at Modane or Termignon to ascend the Dent Parrachée.
- Ascend Charbonel or Levanna or Rochemelon.  
 Cross Ciamarella to Balme, and return to Bessans by the Albaron, or Bessanese.  
 Cross Grande Aiguille Rousse to Val d'Isère (and next day to Ceresole by the Col de la Galise) or by the Col d'Oin from the peak to Ceresole.  
 Col de Teleccio, and Tour du Grand St. Pierre to Cogne.  
 Ascend Grand Paradis, descending to Val Savaranche.  
 Return to Cogne over the Grivola or the Herbetet or the Punta Bianca.  
 To Val d'Aosta, by Punta di Tersiva or Mont Emilius.

# *VI. Tour for climbers in the Queyras, Viso district, and Maritimes.*

This can be most conveniently done in the course of a journey through the S.W. Alps by starting from Vallouise.

- To Abriès by the Combe du Queyras.  
 Col de la Traversette to Crissolo or the Club hut.  
 Ascend Monte Viso and descend to Castel Delfino.  
 Col de Lautaret to Maljasset in the Ubaye valley.  
 Ascend Aiguille or Brec de Chambeiron.  
 To Barcelonnette.  
 To St. Etienne in Tinea valley or by Col de l'Argentière to Demonte.
- To the Bagni di Valdieri.  
 Ascend Punta Argentera.  
 To St. Martin Lantosque.  
 Ascend Cima dei Gelas.  
 Ascend Mont Clapier, descending to San Dalmazzo di Tenda.  
 Cross Col de Tenda to Cuneo and regain Vallouise by way of Saluzzo, Pinerolo, Susa, and the Mont Genève, or else by Pinerolo, the Val Pellice, and Abriès.



# ROUTES IN SAVOY AND PIEDMONT,

THE ITALIAN LAKES, THE PENNINE ALPS, AND PART OF DAUPHINÉ.

## ROUTE 111.

### DOMO D'OSSOLA TO BAVENO.

Miles.

		<b>Domo</b>
9 $\frac{1}{4}$	. . . .	<b>Vogogna</b>
18 $\frac{3}{4}$	. . . .	<b>Gravellona</b>
24 $\frac{1}{4}$	. . . .	<b>Baveno</b>

From Domo d'Ossola *Rly.* to Gravellona, and by Orta (Rte. 118) to Novara. Four trains daily each way, taking 1 hr. 10 min. to Gravellona, and 2 hrs. thence to Novara.

From Brieg to Domo d'Ossola, by the Simplon road, see Rte. 59.

**Pallanza**, on the N. shore of the Baveno Bay, is a little farther from Domo than Baveno, to the S. In hot weather it is worthy of consideration that the sun is off Baveno by two o'clock in the afternoon, whilst it shines fiercely on Pallanza till the evening.

The *Rly.* from Domo descends (mainly by the rt. bk. of the river) the wide and flat valley of the Tosa, the bridges over which, below Domo d'Ossola, and again 6 m. below Vogogna, were carried off by the storms of 1834 and 1849.

At (4 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.) **Villa d'Ossola Stat.** the stream from the *Val Antrona* is crossed. [This is a beautiful valley leading to several passes over the main chain to Saas. The chief village, **Antrona Piana**, is reached in 3-3 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Villa by a paved mule-track and is most picturesquely situated at a height of 2959 ft., some way below the beautiful lake of the same name. The most frequented pass,

rough but easy (9 hrs.), is the *Antrona Pass* (9331 ft.), frequented since the 13th cent. (see Rte. 121). The *Latelhorn*, 1200 ft. above it on the N.E., is easy of access in 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  hr., and commands a noble panorama (Rte. 121). There are also tracks from Antrona Piana to Val Anzasca (Rte. 120).]

6 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Piédimulera Stat.**, where travellers bound for the Val Anzasca (Rte. 120) get out.

Monte Rosa is seen for a moment from the high road.

9 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Vogogna Stat.** Its Latin statutes of 1374 are still preserved and contain many traces of interesting local customs and institutions. The Tosa crossed by an iron bridge, 580 yds. long, soon after traversing the Anza, is navigable in spite of its rapidity; the barges are towed up by double teams of 6 or 8 horses on each bank.

At (13 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.) **Cuzzago Stat.** the carriage road to Pallanza branches E., passing the beautiful *Lago di Mergozzo*.

Near (16 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.) **Ornavasso Stat.** are the white marble quarries which supplied the stone for Milan Cathedral. Two chapels are seen high above.

**Ornavasso** — Germ. *Urnäsch* — was (like the neighbouring village of *Miggiandone*) occupied by a German speaking colony from the village of Naters (opposite Brieg) in the Valais, at some time between 1295 and 1307. The statutes of 1575 contain notices of some ancient Teutonic customs, but German has not been the language of the inhabi-

tants for over 100 years, though certain names of places are of German origin. Yet the natives have a lively recollection of the rock whence they were hewn, for in 1871 a street in Ornavasso was named by the local authorities 'Via Naters.'

Near (18 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.) **Gravellona Toce Stat.**, a large bridge crosses the Strona, a stream which drains the Lago d'Orta and sets in motion several *cotton mills*. The railway continues to Orta (Rte. 118); and the main carriage road to

22 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Fariōlo**. Here Lago Maggiore bursts into view, with the Isola Madre, the northernmost of the Borromean Islands, in the distance. A little further are numerous quarries of a beautiful rose granite, which derives its colour from the prevalence of felspar. It cleaves into thin slabs. The telegraph posts are made of granite. Felspar is obtained here in beautiful flesh-coloured crystals.

24 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Baveno** (see Rte. 112).

For Lago Maggiore, see next route.

## ROUTE 112.

BELLINZONA TO LOCARNO (RAILWAY) — LAGO MAGGIORE TO ARONA.

The Swiss ports of Magadino and Locarno are nearly opposite to each other at the N. end of the Lago Maggiore. It is 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Bellinzona to Magadino, which since the construction of the railroad has entirely lost its importance, and 13 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. to Locarno.

The valley of the Ticino between Bellinzona and the lake is a broad plain, from which the mountains recede to a considerable distance. The country is highly cultivated, the slopes covered with vineyards, but near the lake the bottom becomes marshy and is unhealthy.

[The rly. along the E. shore of the lake is described in Rte. 34B. It affords but scanty glimpses of the scenery, and will hardly be used except by through travellers.]

To **Locarno**, Rly. 6 trains daily in 40-50 min. The rly. keeps close company with the Luino line as far as (5 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.) **Cadenazzo**, the junction of the lines to Lugano and Luino. Crossing the Ticino, it approaches the head of the lake.

10 m. **Gordola Stat.** Here the exquisitely blue torrent of Val Verzasca pours out of a gorge. The line runs along the shore, through villas and vineyards, to Locarno.

13 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Locarno**—Germ. *Luggarus*. This was formerly one of the three capitals of Canton Tessin. It has 3353 Inhab., and once contained many more, but has decayed since the 15th cent. It is beautifully situated on the margin of the lake, (on which it has a little port), at the foot of wooded cliffs surmounted by the church and convent of the Madonna del Sasso, and near the entrance of the converging valleys of Verzasca, Maggia, Onsernone, and Centovalli. The groves of orange and lemon, the tall white steeples on the hillsides, and the little white chapels peering out from among the trellised vines and mirrored in the glassy lake, are all characteristic features of an Italian landscape, even though, as far as frontier lines are concerned, we are still in Switzerland. As a lake station Locarno cannot rival the towns on the more southerly shores of Lago Maggiore. It is, however, the starting-point for drives up three of the most beautiful valleys in the Tessin Alps (see Rte. 113), and those who make it a centre for a week's excursion in June or the autumn months will be well repaid. In midsummer the climate is hot, but not unhealthy, as the delta of the Maggia is composed of dry granite débris.

The Government House, in a



square planted with shrubberies, was built for the sittings of the Grand Council. In the castle, begun in 1342, but in great part pulled down in 1531, the seat of the Swiss bailiff, are some antique rooms with beautiful wood-carvings. The old desecrated ch. of **San Francesco** formed part of a Franciscan convent which existed here 1228-1848.

The ch. of **San Vittore** at Muralto, close by, has been a church of secular canons since the middle of the 13th cent. The ch. is mentioned in the 10th cent., but the present building—a stately basilica—does not date farther back than the 12th cent., and has been modernized; it has some early sculptured capitals in the crypt, the tower was begun in 1524, and the ch. was the parish ch. of Locarno till 1816, when Sant' Antonio succeeded to that position. In Jan., 1863, the roof of **Sant' Antonio** gave way under the weight of snow (a most uncommon phenomenon here) and 40 persons were killed. There are some good frescoes (dated 1442 and 1476, but unluckily now rapidly decaying) in the cemetery-chapel of **Santa Maria in Selva**.

The **market** held once a fortnight, exhibits a singular mixture of costumes.

In 1512, Locarno was conquered by the Swiss and held by 12 cantons as a subject bailiwick, until 1798. Beccaria, a priest of Locarno, became a Protestant, and by 1548 gathered together about 200 followers there.

In March, 1555, 116 persons, who had refused to purchase the privilege of remaining by the sacrifice of their religion, were banished by decree of the Swiss Diet, in pursuance of the Plea of Kappel, 1531, by which the subject bailiwicks were not allowed to become Protestant. With them went industry and prosperity; they settled at Zürich, transferring thither the manufacture of silk, which is now of such importance to that city. The Orelli, the well-

known publishers of Zürich, are a Locarno family, also the Muralts, but *not* the Pestalozzi (despite common belief), for they came to Zürich in 1564 from Chiavenna.

[The **Madonna del Sasso** (founded, in consequence of an apparition to one of the Franciscan friars at Locarno, in 1480), 20 min. walk above the town, is well worth a visit. The path is formed into a Calvary, inferior to those at Domo d'Ossola and Varallo, but beautifully laid out. The portico of the church commands an exquisite view over the lake and entrance of the valley of the Ticino, whose winding course may be traced flashing in the sun. From 1485 it has belonged to a Franciscan convent, and contains a *Flight into Egypt* by Bramantino. From this a footpath leads in 10 min. to the **Trinità dei Monti**, commanding a more extensive panorama.]

**Excursions.** *a.* From the hamlet of Losone,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s. drive from Locarno beyond the Maggia, an excellent mule-path leads in 1 hr. to *Ronco*. It first crosses a low birch-draped pass, an Italian Trossachs, and then runs in a smooth and level terrace among gardens commanding noble views over the lake and of the mountains at its head. A zigzag road connects Ronco with the high-road along the W. shore of the lake, by which Locarno may be regained, *b.* 2 hrs'. walk above the town is the chapel of *San Bernardo* (close to it a humble *Pension*), whence a very fine view can be obtained, and greatly extended by ascending to the **Cimetta**.

The following are the principal drives: 1. To *Contra*, on the hillside behind the town, and to the brow above the entrance of Val Verzasca. 2. To *Intragna*, returning by rt. bank of the Maggia. 3. Up *Val Onsernone* as far as Russo. 4. Up *Val Verzasca* to Sonogno. 5. Up *Val Maggia* to Bignasco and Fusio (2 days, better 3, sleeping at Bignasco, and visiting

Val Bavona). 6. Down the shores of the lake to Cannobio, and up the gorges of *Val Cannobina*. Those who are not afraid to walk or ride should sleep at Sta. Maria in Val Vigezzo, and return to Locarno by *Val Centovalli*.

There is an excellent road along the W. shore of the lake to Pallanza, 4 hrs.' drive.

To Domo d'Ossola by Val Vigezzo (Rte. 113).

Val Maggia, Val Verzasca, and Val Onsernone are described in Rte. 113.

### Lago Maggiore.

The **Lago Maggiore**, the *Lacus Verbanus* of the Romans (Germ. *Langensee*), is 40 m. long, about 3 m. wide, except at its greatest breadth ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  m.) opposite Baveno, 646 ft. above the sea, and in places 1230 ft. deep, while it covers an area of nearly 83 sq. m. Its prevailing winds are the *Tramontana* from the N., and the *Inverna*, which blows by day, from the S. Only a small portion at its N. extremity belongs to Switzerland. About  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of Locarno, the Italian frontier commences. The navigation is free to both states. The chief rivers by which the lake is fed are the Ticino, flowing from the St. Gotthard; the Maggia, from the valley of the same name; the Tresa, from the Lago di Lugano; and the Toce, or Tosa, from Val Formazza, past Domo d'Ossola. The scenery of the upper end is bold and mountainous, and at the same time diversified by a succession of striking and beautiful features. The stately beauty of the hill-forms round the bay of Baveno (to call by that name the W. arm, containing the Borromean Islands) is hardly equalled even in this beautiful region; but, towards the S. and E., the shores are less lofty, subsiding gradually into the plain of Lombardy. The fishery is the property of the Borromeo family, and is let for a large sum.

In 1848 Garibaldi and his friends

seized the only two steamers then on the lake, armed them, and for two months cruised about, levying contributions on the Austrian towns and on the Sardinian convents, and the lake was again the scene of fighting in 1859.

The voyage ( $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.) down the lake is very delightful, and the scenery exquisite. The mountain sides are so precipitous that there were until lately no roads along them. Villages and churches are, however, perched on the heights; and wherever a deposit has been formed in the lake by a torrent, a village will be found.

Beyond the delta of the Maggia is

**Ascona**, on the W. shore, surmounted by a castle. The 18th cent. tower of the 16th cent. church is very much like that of St. Ursus at Soleure, for which it doubtless served as a model, the builders of St. Ursus being the Pisoni family of Ascona.

**Brissago**, W., a charming spot, conspicuous with its white houses, and avenue of cypress leading to the ch.; its inhabitants are wealthy and industrious, cigars being the chief manufacture. Terrace rises above terrace against the hill-side; and the vine, fig, olive, pomegranate, and myrtle flourish in the open air. About 1 m. beyond this the Swiss territory ends.

**Cannobio**, W., situated at the entrance of the Piedmontese Val Cannobina (Rte. 113). The *Santuario* was designed by Bramante, and contains an altar-piece reputed the finest work of *Gaudenzio Ferrari*—Christ carrying the Cross. The island off *Cannero*, on which is a ruined castle of the Borromeos, was, in the early 15th cent., the resort of 5 robber-brothers of Ronco named Mazzardi, who committed depredations along the shores of the lake. Before reaching *Oggebbio* is the villa Ricci-d'Azeglio, a favourite sojourning place of the great statesman.

**Luino**, E. (see Rte. 115), stat. for Lugano and Como.







# THE ITALIAN LAKES Map 2.



London John Murray, Albemarle Street.

English Miles  
0 1 2 3 4 5 10

Edw. Weller



**Portovaltravaglia**, E., with a station and pier occasionally called at by trains and steamers.

**Laveno**, E., is situated in a beautiful little bay which was strongly fortified by the Austrians when that side of the lake belonged to Austria. *Rlys.* to Milan by Gallarate and by Varese, each  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. Some distance S. of the town is *Santa Caterina del Sasso*, a church founded in 1350, very beautifully situated. It is named from a piece of rock, weighing above a ton, which some 400 years ago fell, penetrating the roof, and was arrested in a curious manner. Above the town is a conspicuous hillock, **Sasso di Ferro** (3456 ft.), the view from which is most magnificent towards the Alps and over the lakes. It is a very easy 2 hrs.' climb from Laveno, and should on no account be omitted by any one who finds himself in the neighbourhood. It is a delightful and easy walk to go from Laveno up the Sasso di Ferro ( $1\frac{3}{4}$  hr.), descend to lunch at the primitive little *Croce Bianca* at Casero ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.), to mount again by a broad path to the ridge behind the village, to follow its crest to its highest point, *Monte Nudo* ( $1\frac{3}{4}$  hr.), and to descend thence past the Sanctuary of Sant' Antonio, to Portovaltravaglia (2 hrs.), whence (*Rte.* 34 B) Luino is reached in  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. by rail or  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. by steamer. The views all the way are most enchanting.

[A beautiful cross road leads to Ponte Tresa on Lago di Lugano (3 hrs.).]

A railway leads in  $13\frac{3}{4}$  m. to Varese. The country traversed is, after the first few miles, broad and open. In place of the picturesque variety of most of the lake-drives, the traveller has before him a stately classical landscape, crowned in clear weather by a superb view of Monte Rosa and the Saasgrat.

**Varese**. The Lake of Varese at some distance, surrounded by low, vine-clad hills, is a feature in the foreground.

The town (14,166 Inhab., 1240 ft.) has no very remarkable buildings or works of art.

The ancient *Monte Sacro di Varese* is well worth a visit for its beautiful view and curious collection of buildings, and shrines resembling those at Varallo (see HANDBOOK TO N. ITALY, *Rte.* 17).]

**Intra**, W., 5945 Inhab. A thriving town, with manufactories of glass, cotton, and silk, and a foundry. The torrent from the Val Intrasca affords abundant water power. Near it is the magnificent *Villa Franzosini* (formerly Poniatowski).

From here *Val Intrasca* offers a charming by-way for pedestrians to Domo d'Ossola or Val Cannobina; at Premeno, 5 m., there is a good *Inn*.

From *Miazzina* (2 hrs.' drive from Intra—fair *Inn*), a 3 hrs.' walk leads to a Club hut built by the Italian Alpine Club on the Plan Cavallone, whence in 2 hrs. the top of the *Pizzo Marone* (6729 ft.) and in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. more that of the *Monte Zeda* (7077 ft.) may be gained; or the latter peak may be reached direct from Intra in 6 hrs. Both summits form part of the ranges between Domo d'Ossola and the lake, and command superb views.]

A small island belonging to Count Borromeo lies off the point before reaching

**Pallanza**, W., 4241 Inhab. Owing to its position, sheltered from N. winds and exposed to the full winter sunshine, Pallanza has come into some repute as winter quarters for invalids. The conspicuous building above the town is a large model prison for male convicts. There is a nursery-garden of some celebrity close to the town. The Borromean Islands may be visited from Pallanza. A good carriage-road runs hence to Gravellona on the Domo d'Ossola-Orta rly. (*Rte.* 111). Few travellers will omit to visit the beautiful *Lago d'Orta* from this place or Baveno.

**Baveno**, W., 2389 Inhab., is beautifully situated on the shore of the

lake and at the foot of the Monte Mottarone, the walks on the sides of which are very pretty and less enclosed by walls than is usual in Italy. There are good rowing-boats to be hired. The splendid *Villa Clara*, perhaps the finest on Lago Maggiore, has been built by Charles Henfrey, Esq., C.E., on a terrace above Baveno. It was occupied in 1879 by Queen Victoria. The liberality of Mr. Henfrey has provided for the benefit of his countrymen an *English Church*, of elegant design, in the Lombard style (Mr. Pullan, architect), and original in plan. It is a domed octagon, supported on marble pillars and richly decorated within. It was finished 1873. The Simplon road is carried along the shore of the lake to Arona—rly. projected.

**Borromean Islands.**—The indispensable excursion from Baveno is a visit to the far-famed Borromean Islands, which lie scattered about the deep bay of Baveno, and are picturesque objects in every view. The steamers touch at the Isola Bella. It takes 25 min. to row from Baveno to the Isola Bella (boat there and back 5 fr., or 2 fr. an hr.).

*Isola Bella* belongs to Count Borromeo. Count Vitaliano Borromeo, in 1671, converted this bare and barren slate-rock, which lifts itself a few feet above the lake, into a beautiful garden, teeming with the vegetation of the tropics. It consists of 10 terraces, rising in pyramidal form one above another, and lined with statues, vases, obelisks, and black cypresses. Upon these, as upon the hanging-gardens of Babylon, flourish in the open air, not merely the orange, citron, myrtle, and pomegranate, but aloes, cactuses, and the camphor-tree (of which there is a specimen 40 ft. high), and this within a day's journey of the Lapland climate of the Simplon, and within view of Alpine snows.

The proverbial disagreement of doctors is nothing in comparison to the discord of travellers as to the merits of this island. To *Simond* the

sight of the island at a distance suggested the idea of 'a huge Péri-gord pie, stuck round with the heads of woodcocks and partridges;' *Matthews* extols it as 'the magic creation of labour and taste . . . a fairy-land, which might serve as a model for the gardens of Calypso;' *De Saussure* calls it 'une superbe fantaisie, une idée vraiment belle et noble, une espèce de création;' *Gibbon* 'an enchanted palace, a work of the fairies, in a lake accompanied with mountains;' while *Brockedon* sternly pronounces it as 'worthy only of a rich man's misplaced extravagance, and of the taste of a confectioner.' To the taste of the present century there is much that may seem misplaced; but, for a traveller fresh from the north, this creation of art, with its aromatic groves, starting out of the rocks—and, above all, its glorious situation, bathed by the dark blue waters of the lake, which reflect the distant snows of the Alps—cannot fail to afford pleasure.

Every handful of mould on the island was originally brought from a distance, and requires to be constantly renewed. It is probable that its foundation of slate-rock favours the growth of tender plants by long retaining the heat of a noonday sun; in addition to this, the terraces are boarded over during winter, and the plants protected from frost by stoves beneath. The orange and lemon blossoms perfume the air to some distance.

The *Palace*, which, with the gardens, is liberally shown to strangers, contains two portraits of *Beltraffio*, pictures by *Procaccini*, the Charity of *Andrea Sacchi*, and 50 landscapes by *Peter Molyn*, better known as *Tempesta*. In the *Chapel* are 3 fine monuments of the Borromeo family, removed from Milan at the time of the Cisalpine Republic: one was constructed to hold the relics of *Sta. Giustina*, a member of the family; another, on the rt. of the altar, is erroneously attributed to *Ant. Busti*. These monuments are all probably



by *Amadeo*, the sculptor of the monument of Colleoni at Bergamo (1490). The large unfinished building which separates the two wings was intended for a theatre, but has never been covered in. At the level of the lake is a series of grottoes, encrusted with shells and pebbles. At present the palace and gardens present a somewhat dilapidated appearance.

*Isola dei Pescatori* is a small island near *Isola Bella*, which does not belong to the Borromeo family. On it is a village of poor but picturesque houses, a large church, &c. The inhabitants are fishermen.

The *Isola Madre* is well worth a visit (fee 1 fr.). From its greater distance from the mountains, which screen the sun earlier from the others, it enjoys a milder climate in winter. The plants of New Holland grow luxuriantly out of doors; the two species of tea are generally in flower in October; the Chilian *Araucaria* here attains a great size. On the island are many pheasants, a rare sight in Italy, these birds being as it were imprisoned, from their inability by flight to gain the opposite shore.

The *Isolina di San Giovanni* is the smallest of the group, and the nearest to the shore.

[The **Monte Mottarone** or *Margozzolo*, rising behind Baveno, commands fine view of the Alps, the Lago Maggiore, and Italian plains. Donkeys are kept for the ascent. A cog-wheel rly. is to be shortly constructed from Stresa to the top (7 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. in 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs.). On foot it takes 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Baveno, mounting at first through forest, and then by heathery slopes, to reach the top, 4892 ft. above the sea. Near the summit a large well-kept *Inn* (4675 ft.) has been opened. Travellers may descend the long slope on the opposite side to Orta in 3 hrs., and return by Omegna and the high road; or, if bound to Varallo, sleep at Orta, and proceed next day by the exquisite Col de Colma (see Rte. 118).]

**Stresa, W.** This place is beautifully situated, and is by some preferred to Baveno. Villa Pallavicini has a fine garden. The Villas Bollongaro (formerly the property of Rosmini, the philosopher, now of the Duchess of Genoa), Casanova, Colcani, and Durazzo may also be visited. The Rosmini college on the hillside has been turned into a school.

**Belgirate, W., and Lesa, W.,** are pretty villages, remarkable for the number of villas with terraces and gardens in front. The colossal statue of *S. Carlo Borromeo* appears on the hill above the road on the rt., before reaching

**Arona, W.,** an ancient and rapidly improving town of 4474 Inhab., built on the margin of the lake; the principal street is so narrow that only one carriage can pass. The Simplon road runs through the upper part of the town. This is the port at which the steamers end their voyage.

The station of the rly. to *Novara* (about 1 hr.), is close to the steamboat pier. Rail from Novara to Turin in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.; direct to Genoa by Alessandria in 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.; to Milan in 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  hr.; to Varallo in 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs.

The principal *Ch.* (*Santa Maria*) contains a very beautiful picture attributed to Gaudenzio Ferrari—a Holy Family—with shutters, bearing figures of saints, and the portrait of a Countess Borromeo, by whom it was presented to the church. It is retouched. San Carlo Borromeo was born (1538) in the old Castle above Arona, destroyed by the French, 1797.

On a hill, about half an hr.'s walk from the town, stands the *Colossal Statue of San Carlo Borromeo*, 77 ft. high, and placed on a pedestal 38 ft. high. The head, hands, and feet, alone, are cast in bronze; the rest of the figure is formed of sheets of beaten copper, arranged round a pillar of rough masonry which forms the support. The statue was erected,

1614-1697, by subscriptions, principally contributed by the Borromeo family. It is possible to enter the interior and to mount up into the head. The ascent is by means of two ladders tied together (provided by a man who lives hard by), resting on the pedestal, and reaching up to the skirt of the robe. The statue has nothing but size to recommend it.

Carlo Borromeo (1538-84), a member of a wealthy Arona family, and nephew of Pius IV., became Archbishop of Milan and a cardinal at 22. He was a man of singular spiritual energy and an ardent Churchman, and appears in Swiss history as the supporter of the Catholic revival in the Forest Cantons, with which he was closely connected, as the Val Leventina was part of his diocese (the diocese of Como, which included the other Swiss lands in the Milanese, was in the ecclesiastical province of Milan), and was the real author of the Golden or Borromean League, 1586. In 1579 he founded the *Collegium Helveticum* at Milan for the education of 24 Swiss candidates for the priesthood, an institution which lasted till 1797, 24 free places being still reserved for Swiss at the archiepiscopal seminary in Milan. He employed Capuchins and Jesuits to bring back his flock to the old faith, and wore himself out by his personal exertions. 'He performed his episcopal duties, not with energy and conscience only, but with a sort of passion. He was incessantly occupied in the pastoral visitation of his diocese, which he traversed in every direction; there was no village, however remote, that he had not visited two or three times; the highest mountains, the most secluded valleys; all were alike known and cared for.'—Ranke's *Popes*. He is worthily remembered for his heroic and self-forgotten exertions during the plague and famine at Milan, in the Duomo of which his remains are still preserved and revered, as he was canonized not long after his death.

The present College at Arona occupies the site of the old Benedictine monastery (founded in the 10th cent., occupied by Jesuits 1574 - 1763), to which from 999 the pastures of Macugnaga in Val Anzasca belonged, and in which, in 1604, was unearthed a famous 14th cent. MS. of the *Imitation* (now preserved at Turin), the authorship of which is attributed to John Gersen of Cavaglia, Abbot of Vercelli, the very existence of whom, however, seems to be problematical.

From the top of *la Rocca*, a hill above Arona, there is a fine view. The geologist will find near the quarries of limestone (Dolomite) an interesting contact of the magnesian limestone and red porphyry.

Opposite Arona, on the other side of the lake, stands the *Castle of Angera*, a fief of the Borromeos, on a hill of a similar limestone, and at its foot the neat modern village of the same name. The castle dates from the time of Giovanni Visconti, Archbishop of Milan (1342-1354), and was built in 1350. Some frescoes represent events in the life of his father, Ottone Visconti.

Remains of lake-dwellings have been found near Mercurago, 1 m. S. of Arona.

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## ROUTE 113.

### THE VALLEYS OF CANTON TICINO.

- A. Locarno to Airolo, by Val Maggia and Val Lavizza.
- B. Locarno to Tosa Falls, by Val Maggia and Val Bavona.
- C. Locarno to Faïdo, by Val Verzasca.
- D. Val Onsernone.
- E. Domo d'Ossola to Locarno, by Val Vigezzo.
- F. Domo d'Ossola to Cannobio, by Val Cannobina.



The district which lies between the Nufenen, the Val d'Ossola, the Val Leventina and Lago Maggiore, though as yet little known to English travellers, contains scenery scarcely to be surpassed for beauty in the whole Alpine chain. A large proportion of the inhabitants emigrate in their youth, returning home in middle life. English, picked up in California or Australia, is constantly heard in country cafés or diligences. For further details see Bazetta and Brusoni's *Guide de l'Ossola*, and Freshfield's *Italian Alps*.

A. The **Val Maggia** is, as its name implies, the largest of the mountain valleys which open on the head of Lago Maggiore. It is traversed by a good road extending to **Fusio**, the highest village, to which an omnibus runs once daily (34 m.,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.), with a second service from Bignasco to Fusio.

For the first  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Locarno the road traverses rice-fields and vineyards, on the l. bank of the united streams of the various valleys, which form a delta below the town.

At *Ponte Brolla* the Maggia issues from the N. through a deep cleft in white gneiss rocks. The water, except during the melting of the snows, or after heavy rains, is of the most glorious deep blue colour.

[Here the roads to *Val Onsernone* (see D) and *Intragna* branch off, crossing the bridge.

The natural gap formed by Val Centovalli and Val Vigizzo would, but for political considerations, have long ago been traversed by a high road. The two valleys diverge from the same low plateau, more like an English heath than an Alpine watershed. But Val Centovalli is Swiss; Val Vigizzo, Italian. There is still consequently a break in the char-road near the frontier, and the road connecting Val Vigizzo with Lago Maggiore is carried through the intricate gorges of Val Cannobina within Italian territory.]

The lower portion of Val Maggia

is a deep broad straight trench, between lofty gneiss ranges, rising on either hand in precipices, streaked by waterfalls, one of which, the Soladino Fall, is noteworthy. The scenery, though fine, is monotonous, and the aspect of the valley is marred by the stony bed of the torrent.

The village of **Maggia** is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Locarno. The next place of importance is **Cevio**,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Locarno, at the junction of Val Rovana with the main valley.

[The stream of *Val Rovana* here issues from a narrow gorge. A char-road climbs into it by steep zigzags. An hr. from Cevio the valley divides. The N.W. branch leads to **Bosco**, an isolated German-speaking (13th cent.) colony from the Valais, where the *curé* entertains strangers. Thence in about 6 hrs. to Val Formazza, by the *Criner Pass* or *Hinter Furka*, through varied and pleasing scenery. The *Inn* at Tosa Falls may be reached in one day from Locarno by this rte. The S.W. branch of the valley, Val di Campo, is traversed by a char-road as far as **Campo** ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.). Thence passes lead S. to **Comologno** in Val Onsernone, and W. to **Premia** in Val Antigorio.]

At Cevio the valley of the Maggia, hitherto straight and monotonous, turns abruptly to the N., and rocks, fringed below with beech and chestnut, above with larch and birch, overhang the torrent, whose brilliant waters dance along among white boulders.

$2\frac{1}{2}$  m. further (18 m. from Locarno,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs'. drive) lies **Bignasco** (1424 ft.).

This is one of the most exquisite spots in the southern Alps. The village is built at the junction of the torrent of Val Bavona with the Maggia. Both streams are crossed by high-arched bridges, which unite with frescoed chapels, white-walled villas, on whose terraced roofs oleanders bloom, and vines, trellised over stone pillars, to give an Italian

character to the foreground. Immediately opposite, a superb vista of granite precipices and forested slopes is closed by the glittering snows of the Basodino. Behind the village are deep bays of chestnut forest, under which the Alpine rhododendron flourishes. In another direction, one of the summits of Piz Campo Tencia closes Val Lavizzara, the hill-sides of which ascend steeply in broken slopes. There are lovely walks in every direction through the woods, and the river supplies good trout-fishing. This beautiful spot should be a favourite resort of travellers.

[A fine pass leads hence into Val Verzasca (see C below).]

Above Bignasco the valley is known as *Val Lavizzara*. The road ascends steeply through a very picturesque defile for some miles. Shortly after passing *Broglia* the valley becomes level, and the *Val di Prato* opens E.

[This is a romantic glen. Beyond the Monte di San Carlo an excellent path pierces a narrow defile, and gives access to the upper pastures whence it is easy to cross the ridge to Fusio. A mountaineer may cross *Piz Campo Tencia* (10,089 ft.), to Faïdo (8 to 10 hrs.' walking from Broglia). A foot-pass, *Passo della Redorta*, leads to Sonogno, in Val Verzasca, in 5 hrs., through another branch of the valley.]

The valley bends again northwards, and the poor hamlet of **Pecchia**, with the opening of *Val Peccia*, is passed.

[This wild valley is traversed by rough tracks leading to the head of Val Bavona. A good walker may ascend it, returning to Bignasco by Val Bavona, a magnificent walk.]

The road now climbs in zigzags a steep ascent, which leads to the highest level of Val Lavizzara. The chief village, **Fusio** (4203 ft.), is charmingly situated among gentle slopes, finely wooded with beeches. Several passes lead to Val Leventina. The most frequented is the

*Campolungo Pass* (6 hrs.) to Faïdo or Dazio Grande, a rough mule-path. A steeper footpath, starting from the chalets of Corte higher up in the glen in which the Maggia rises, leads directly to Airola, in 5 hrs., by the *Sassello Pass*. The traveller will do well to take a guide, as the Airola side is in parts very steep, and the goatpaths are easily missed.

There is another and easier, but longer rte., mounting to the *Lago di Naret*, at the extreme head of the valley, crossing the *Passo di Naret*, and descending to Ossasco, in Val Bedretto, above Airola.

## B. Locarno to Tosa Falls, by Val Bavona.

To Bignasco (see *ante*).

**Val Bavona**, which opens immediately opposite Bignasco, is one of the most beautiful of Alpine valleys.

For  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 hrs. from Bignasco to San Carlo it is a trench between granite ranges. Owing to its depth, the sternness of the rock scenery is relieved by the utmost richness in the vegetation. The huge boulders fallen from the impending precipices are half smothered in chestnut woods, and picturesque cottages, shaded by vines, peep out from the confusion of rock and wood. A fine waterfall issues from the Val Calneggia (through which the *Cazoli Pass* leads to Val Formazza) to the W. near *Foroglio*;  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. further is the highest hamlet, **San Carlo**. [The *Val Antabbia*, a steep glen, offering the most direct approach to the Basodino, and leading by the Tamier Pass to Tosa Falls (see Rte. 62), here opens on the left.]

The stream from the large glacier lying on the E. flank of the Basodino issues from a narrow glen, the entrance to which is attained by a steep ascent through beech woods. Higher up the streams tumble from all sides in fine waterfalls, to unite in an Alpine pasturage. Rt. a track crosses into Val Peccia; due N. the



*Cristallina Pass* leads to Val Bédretto. The traveller bound for Tosa Falls turns to the l. and ascends in steep zigzags to the *Robiei Alp*, a group of chalets, sometimes used as sleeping-quarters by those who ascend the Basodino, whose snowy crest is a beautiful object. A gentle ascent, skirting the extensive and finely crevassed Caveragno Glacier, leads to the *Bocchetta di Val Maggia* (8708 ft.), whence a short rough descent brings the traveller on to the track of the *San Giacomo Pass*. It is a long day of 11 to 12 hrs.' walking from Bignasco to the Inn at Tosa Falls by this rte., and the traverse across the Basodino (see below) is in every way to be preferred. In the opposite direction less time and toil are required.

[From the *Robiei Alp*, or better from the Zotto Alp to the S.W., a fair climber, provided with a rope, will find a higher, but more direct and interesting rte. by mounting the glacier, and then steep snow and broken rocks to the summit of the **Basodino** ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ –4 hrs., 10,749 ft.). The descent ( $2$ – $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.) to Tosa Falls is short and easy, but steep. The traveller must keep slightly to the rt., and *not* follow the stream, which joins the Tosa below the falls, but pass the Ghigel huts.]

### C. Locarno to Faïdo. Val Verzasca.

A good carriage-road from Gordola to Sonogno, 18 m.

**Gordola** (stat.) is 3 m. from Locarno by road. Here the road to Val Verzasca turns off. Unlike the neighbouring valley, it is the lower portion of Val Verzasca which is most remarkable. For 9 m. between Lavertezzo and the lake it is a continuous defile, offering a succession of charming landscapes. The road which penetrates it is a masterpiece of engineering art, cut out of the steep eastern hill-sides, and carried over lateral torrents on lofty arches. Many villages, joined by terrace paths, lie high on the op-

posite (W.) side of the valley. The track connecting them with Locarno climbs to a great height on the spurs overlooking the lake.

**Lavertezzo** (10 m.) is the principal hamlet of Val Verzasca. Its inhabitants formerly bore a bad character, and are spoken of by a 16th cent. writer as *homines sylvestres sparsim ferarum ritu degentes*. Up to recent times they had a reputation for being too ready with their knives; but no stranger is known to have suffered at their hands.

[From Lavertezzo to Locarno by the paths on the W. side of the valley is a 4 hrs.' walk. The track is at first a mere footpath, steep and difficult to find, but from Mergoscia a very narrow char-road, commanding glorious views of the head of Lago Maggiore, descends to Locarno.]

Above Lavertezzo the road and stream join. The water rests in smooth white rock basins, which show off to the utmost advantage its almost incredible peacock hues. A steep step in the valley where the stream falls in fine cascades brings the traveller to **Brione** at the entrance of *Val Ossola*, through which an interesting pass leads to Bignasco. The carriage-road continues up the N. branch of the valley for 5 m. further to **Sonogno** (2982 ft.), a village of rough stone huts. Here 2 glens unite; through the northern *Val Vigornesso* the high *Passo di Barone* and the lower and easier *Passo del Laghetto* lead by Val Chironico to Faïdo. Through the western, *Val Redorta*, there is a steep pass to Val di Prato (see *ante*) and Val Maggia.

### D. Val Onsernone.

This valley equals, if it does not surpass in beauty, its neighbours in its lower portion. The upper glens are comparatively unattractive. Diligence twice daily in 5 hrs. to Comologno ( $16\frac{3}{4}$  m.). At **Cavigliano** ( $4\frac{1}{4}$  m.) the road, leaving In-

tragna on the l., climbs steeply through broken crags and birch-woods, commanding lovely views, looking back, of the head of Lago Maggiore. It then enters at a great height above the torrent the splendid gorge of the Isorno, and runs in a terrace amongst precipices and noble chestnuts to the vine-embowered hamlet of Auressio. Loco is seen opposite, but a long zigzag round a lateral ravine has to be passed to reach it.

**Loco** ( $8\frac{3}{4}$  m.) is a flourishing village exquisitely situated on a sunny hill-side, above a bend in the valley.

[There is a beautiful footpath from Loco to Intragna on the rt. bank of the Isorno.]

The road now runs at a level among fields and hamlets still high above the river for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. to

**Russo**, the chief place in the valley, which may well be made the limit of an excursion from Locarno. While the horses rest, travellers should walk on to the Tre Ponti, where the roads from the two heads of Val Onsernone meet.

The one (N.W.) ends at *Vergelletto* beyond Loco, the other (W.) at *Comologno* (3504 ft.),  $4\frac{3}{4}$  m., and *Spruga*, 6 m., above Russo. Beyond Spruga in a deep glen lie, in Italian territory, the (burnt) **Baths of Craveggia**, a rough country bathing establishment, and numerous tracks lead over the hills to the villages of Val Vigezzo.

Comologno is connected with V. di Campo (A, above) by an easy but dull pass, *P. di Porcareccio*.

#### E. Domo d'Ossola to Locarno by Val Vigezzo.

From Domo to Locarno the distance is about 30 m. There is a good carriage-road up Val Vigezzo to the pilgrimage shrine of Rê, which will probably be ultimately carried to Locarno. *Val Vigezzo* opens into Val d'Ossola about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. above Domo. The traveller crosses the Tosa in a

ferry, and shortly begins to ascend through a picturesque defile. The upper valley, open and sunny, contains many handsome villas belonging to natives, who have returned to end their days amid the scenes of their youth, after having made fortunes in business. The snows of Monte Rosa shine in the distance. The watershed between the streams flowing to the Tosa and the lake is not a well-defined col, but a tableland, on which is situated the principal village,

**II m. Sta. Maria Maggiore** (2710 ft.), nearly 3 hrs. in a char up-hill from Domo.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. further is **Malesco**, another large village, and 2 m. beyond, at the 15th cent. pilgrimage shrine of **Rê**, the road ends. 1 hr. further, beyond Olgia, the Swiss frontier is crossed, and the traveller passes from Val Vigezzo to Val Centovalli. It is a walk of about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., by a beautiful but circuitous and rough path from Rê to

**Intragna**, beautifully situated. Here a carriage-road begins. This village is the original home of the Gambetta family, many of whom still reside here. The grandfather of Léon Gambetta emigrated to Genoa. The trade usually adopted by the emigrant villagers is that of chimney-sweeping. The Melezso torrent here joins that from the Val Onsernone, and about 2 m. further the joint stream unites with the Maggia at the Ponte Brolla, 3 m. from

**Locarno** (see Rte. 112).

#### F. Domo d'Ossola to Cannobio by Val Cannobina.

From Malesco a carriage-road has been constructed over a low pass to Finero, a hamlet in an upland basin at the head of Val Cannobina. A short distance beyond, the road avoids a long circuit by a bold tunnel, and runs on a terrace above a deep ravine to the hamlet of Orasso.



Here it descends by steep zigzags to the stream. From this point to the lake the road penetrates a series of romantic and richly-wooded defiles, finally emerging at *La Salute*, a large bathing establishment, in a cool situation, with a fine view of the head of the lake. A mile further is Cannobio (Rte. 112).

From Malesco it is about 16 m. (5-6 hrs.' drive) to Cannobio by road<sup>1</sup>.

The whole drive is most beautiful, and much to be preferred to the high road to Baveno as an approach to Lago Maggiore from this side.

## ROUTE 114.

BELLINZONA TO LUGANO AND  
COMO, BY ROAD. MONTE GENEROSO.

Miles.					
19½	.	.	.	.	Lugano
19	.	.	.	.	Como

Although the St. Gotthard Rly. from Bellinzona to Como (Rte. 34 A) is now open throughout, a notice of this road is retained. Its scenery is very beautiful, and ought not to be missed or hurried through.

On quitting Bellinzona by the Lugano gate, the dry bed of a torrent called *Dragonata* is passed. As its name would imply, it is at times a scourge; it carried off in 1768 the Franciscan convent outside the town, and threatens similar injury.

There are many country-houses on the outskirts, and high upon the hills buildings, now deserted, to which in ancient times the inhabitants of Bellinzona used to resort for safety when the plague was raging.

The road turns out of the valley of the Ticino at **Cadenazzo**, 4½ m.

<sup>1</sup> For further particulars as to Locarno and its neighbourhood, see J. Hardmeyer's *Locarno et ses Vallées*. Orelli, Zürich, and Bazetta et Brusoni's *Guide de l'Ossola*.

below Bellinzona, and begins to ascend the *Monte Ceneri*, a steep mountain, whose sides, shaded with walnut and chestnut woods, are scaled by numerous zigzags, commanding exquisite views of the valley of the Ticino and head of Lago Maggiore. The top of the pass (1814 ft., 8¾ m.), is reached in about 2 hrs. from Bellinzona. (Cheval de renfort to Caserma.) From midway up the ascent a fine view is obtained over the N. extremity of the Lago Maggiore. At *Riviera* the road falls in with the river Agno, which rises about 12 m. to the E., at the foot of *Monte Camoghè*, 7303 ft., (sometimes ascended for its fine view—it can be taken in a long day by a pedestrian on his way from Bellinzona to Lugano or Porlezza), and follows it through Bironico to Lamone; here the road turns l., and again ascends a slight eminence, whence an interesting prospect opens out on the opposite descent towards Lugano. In front expands its beautiful lake, backed by mountains; and, on the rt., is Monte Salvatore, with the chapel on its conical summit.

**Lugano.**—(See Rte. 115.)

At **Melide** a promontory projects into the lake, from the point of which a stone causeway, 2400 ft. long, connected with either shore by a stone bridge, has been thrown across to **Bissone**. It cost more than a million francs. Melide is the birthplace of *Fontana*, the architect, who, in 1586, moved the Egyptian obelisk from the Coliseum at Rome to the square in front of the Vatican.

**Maroggia.** Roads hence to Rovio, Arogno, and Lanzo d'Intelvi, and up M. Generoso (see Rte. 34A and below).

**Capolago.**

**Mendrisio** (2872 Inhab.), a busy little town, with manufactories of paper, silk, and hats, and a large hospital for the poor. It is supposed

to be the cradle of the once powerful Milanese family Della Torre, or Torriani. The wine of the country is stored in mountain caves, which form capital cellars. To the sulphureous baths of *Stabio* is a drive of 20 min. [A very beautiful country road leads over low hills, with superb views of Monte Rosa, to Varese (about 13 m.).]

#### ASCENT OF MONTE GENEROSO.

**Monte Generoso** is a happy literary embellishment. The local name of the mountain is Monte Gionnëro.

The ascent of this mountain is an almost indispensable supplement to a visit to the Italian lakes. Situated between the Lakes of Como, and Lugano, and the Lombard plain, it commands not only a fine mountain panorama, but a number of picturesque views hardly to be equalled in Europe for extent, brilliancy, and splendour.

The mountain is accessible from many directions. It is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. on foot from Mendrisio to Dr. Pasta's Hotel, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr. more to the top, but the new cog wheel railway (opened in 1889) has for the majority of travellers superseded all other routes. It starts from Capolago (at the S. end of the lake), a station on the St. Gotthard rly,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Lugano and 10 min. from Mendrisio. 4 trs. daily up in  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr., and 5 down in  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr., all in connection with the steamers and trs. The mountain can thus be reached from Milan in  $3\frac{1}{4}$  hrs., or from Lucerne in  $7\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. The line passes through several tunnels, is hewn out in the rock in a very striking manner, and commands lovely views over the lake. The train halts (25 min.) at the hermitage of *S. Nicholas*, (29 min.) at the point called *Bellarista*, close to which is Dr. Pasta's hotel, and (18 min. later) reaches the *Vetta Station*, about 10 min. and 164 ft. below the highest point.

The highest point of Monte Gene-

roso is a rocky crest (5561 ft.), crowning high, steep-sided downs. The view is panoramic. Besides Lugano, small portions of Como and Maggiore and the Lakes of Varese, Comabbio, and Monate are in sight. The chain of the Alps extends from the Maritime Alps through the Grand Paradis to Monte Rosa and the Saasgrat. These are the absorbing objects, but to the N. the ranges of Ticino are well seen, with the Oberland peaks rising with unexpected boldness in the background. The Bregaglia peaks and Disgrazia are conspicuous. The Ortler and Adamello are hidden by the Bergamasque ranges.

In June the upper portion of Monte Generoso is a garden of wild flowers. The *Narcissus poeticus* and the peony scent or colour the slopes round the inn, and laburnum blossoms festoon the track below it.

Amateur botanists should be cautious how they venture into the gullies on the Lugano side of the peak; they are very steep, and a fall would in many places be fatal.

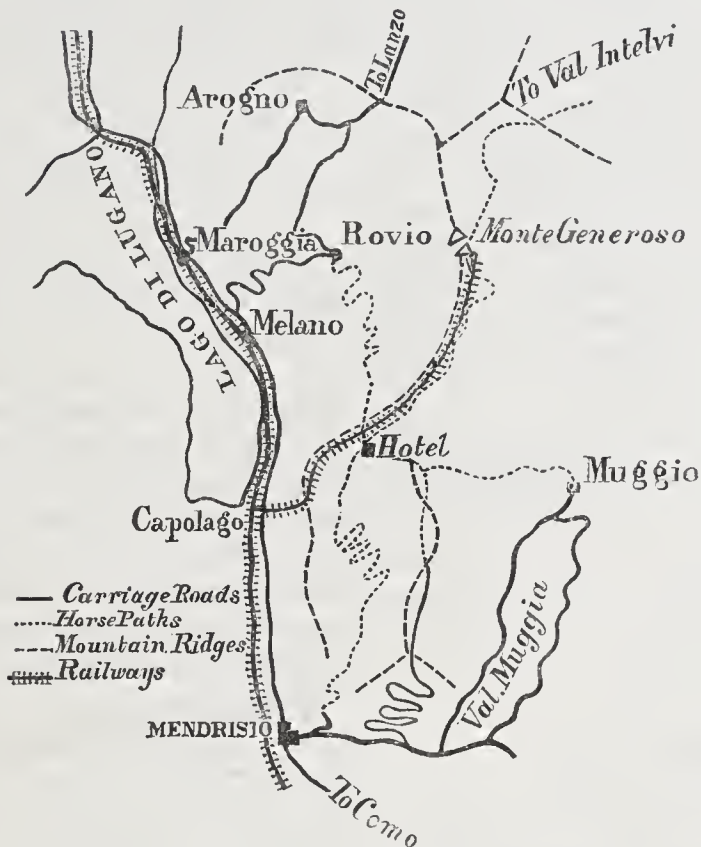
From the top there are easy paths, leading to Lanzo d'Intelvi in 3 to 4 hrs., thence good char-roads lead through Val Intelvi to Argegno on the Lake of Como, or Osteno on the E. arm of the Lake of Lugano.

Dr. Pasta's *H.-Pension du Monte Generoso* is a large, excellent, and moderate house (built 1865-6), *Eng. Ch. S.*, open from May to Oct., and situated nearly 4000 ft. above the sea, with a S. exposure. The mean day temperature of the 3 summer months has been ascertained to be as follows: June,  $56^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit; July,  $61^{\circ}$ ; Aug.,  $60^{\circ}$ . Hence it is an easy walk of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr. to the topmost point of the mountain. The house stands above the head of the glen by which the traveller has mounted, and nearly on a level with the ridge overhanging the Lake of Lugano. In clear weather, the whole Lombard plain, bounded by the Apennines, is visible from the terrace in front



of the hotel. Monte Viso cuts clearly against the W. horizon, or shines like a jewel in the morning light; the Duomo of Milan shows as a white speck in the centre of the blur which marks the position of the city. Five minutes' walk to a brow called Bellavista (from which the path has been very much extended along the face of the cliffs), N. of the house reveals a still more beautiful prospect. Underfoot lies the still Lake of Lugano; while beyond, seen over miles of waving rich-coloured crest

From Castel San Pietro, a village 2 m. E. of Mendrisio, a series of steep but well-constructed zigzags mount the face of the spur which forms the W. boundary of Val Muggio. The crest once reached, the road follows it, now on one side, now on the other, commanding views of the most exquisite beauty, and passing near several groups of farmhouses sheltered by noble chestnut-groves. This spur affords a long level walk and should be followed to its extreme brow by every visitor, whether he descends



and hollow, tower the 7 peaks of Monte Rosa—a spectacle never to be forgotten. This view should be seen at sunrise, when the glow is on the mountain, and transparent mists curl up from the lake.

The house is surrounded by beech-copses, and there are many tolerably level walks in its vicinity. There is a second way from Mendrisio to the *Hotel*, 1 hr. longer, but likely to supersede the present mule-path, since it is a good char-road to within a mile of the door of the hotel.

to the plain or not. A third but circuitous way from Mendrisio or Como is by *Val Muggio*, a long winding dale, abounding in picturesque landscapes and villages. There are winding roads on both sides of the valley to Muggio (an agreeable excursion from Mendrisio), whence a steep path leads to Dr. Pasta's hotel.

One of the pleasantest routes to the hotel is from the *Maroggia Stat.*, on the Lake of Lugano. Hence a road mounts to the upland village of *Rovio*, beautifully situated on a

plateau covered with chestnut-wood and maize-fields. [From Rovio a charming road leads to the neighbouring village of *Arogno*, whence a district carriage-road leads down to the shores of the lake, and a rough char-track to the *H. Belvedere* at Lanzo d'Intelvi. The village of Lanzo stands on a high open upland facing N.E. The *M. della Disgrazia* is a fine object beyond the hills of Lago di Como. A mile from the village, on the edge of the cliffs that overlook the Lake of Lugano, and 2221 ft. above it, are the *Hôtels Belvedere* and *Paraviso*. They command a noble view over the Bay of Lugano to Monte Rosa, and are about 2 hrs.' drive from Osteno, 3½ from Maroggia, and 3 from Argegno. All the approaches are beautiful.] From Rovio a steep but well-kept mule-path climbs (2 hrs.) in two flights of zigzags, through broken cliffs to the shoulder behind Dr. Pasta's hotel. This route is in the shade in the morning.

**Chiasso.** This is the last village in Switzerland; soon afterwards the frontier is passed and the road descends to

**Como.** (See Rte. 116 and HANDBOOK FOR NORTH ITALY.)

## ROUTE 115.

### BAVENO TO MENAGGIO, BY LUINO AND THE LAKE OF LUGANO.

Miles.

	Baveno
15 . .	Luino (steamer)
13 . .	Lugano (carriage, or tramway and steamer)
8 . .	Porlezza (steamer)
8 . .	Menaggio (carriage or tramway)

This is a very beautiful route, combining in a single excursion the finest portions of the 3 lakes, Maggiore, Lugano, and Como. Steam tramways now run in connection with the boats from either extremity

of the Lake of Lugano to Luino and Menaggio.

Travellers coming from Turin or Genoa may take the steamer at Arona; those from the St. Gotthard may start from Locarno; while those who have crossed the Simplon, or who arrive from the valleys of Monte Rosa and the Lake of Orta, will make Baveno the point of departure. For the voyage from any of these places to Luino, see Rte. 112.

**Luino**, properly Luvino, a small town of 3540 Inhab., on E. shore of the Lago Maggiore, the birth-place (about 1470) of the painter Bernardino, called after it *Luini*.

*Steam Tramway to Ponte Tresa* ¾ hr. The track follows the river through a most picturesque wooded gorge, crossed here and there by a bridge.

The drive is exceedingly beautiful, running through a hilly but very fertile and wonderfully well-cultivated country. It takes nearly 3 hrs. The road ascends directly the steep hills behind Luino, and commands a fine prospect of the lake and Monte Rosa. It then follows the rt. bank of the Tresa, upwards, at a considerable height above that river, through a beautiful valley, passing the Swiss frontier and Italian custom-house about 3 m. from Luino.

**Ponte Tresa**, a village of 440 Inhab., is named from a stone bridge which leads to the rt., away from our road, across the river into Lombardy. [A pretty country-road leads hence in 2½–3 hrs. over a high ridge and through the fertile valley of Cuvio to Laveno, on the Lago Maggiore.] The village is prettily situated on a bay of the Lago Lugano, so completely land-locked as to seem a distinct lake.

The steamer to Lugano (1½ hr.), issuing from the land-locked bay of Ponte Tresa, steers nearly S., passing the villages of Figino and Brusimpiano, and gaining constant views of Monte San Salvatore, to

**Porto Ceresio.** (Here omnibuses for Varese, 1¼ hr., are in waiting.)



The boat now turns up a new reach of the lake between the San Salvatore and Campione. The cliffs of Monte Generoso rise in front. After passing Morcote, most picturesquely placed on a headland, the Capo Lago bay opens out, and then the steamer passes through the bridge of Melide, and Lugano comes in view, spreading crescent-wise along the shores of its bay, and backed by mountains of beautiful form and rich colouring.

[*By road.* Another of the winding reaches of the lake stretches N. about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. on E. of the road, as far as

**Agno**, a village of 807 Inhab., at the mouth of the Agno, or Bedagio. A steep ascent is then made to **Muzzano**, where the village and little lake of that name present a very pretty scene.

The town and Lake of Lugano are soon afterwards seen below, and a descent by steep zigzags leads to Lugano.]

**Lugano** (on the St. Gotthard Rly.), Germ. *Lewis*, one of the principal towns of the Canton Tessin, and the largest, most thriving in trade, and most extending in population, contains 7169 Inhab., and is charmingly situated on the margin of its lake, at a height of 902 ft. above the sea. The hills and mountains abound in all the productions of the luxuriant vegetation of Italy; and numerous villas are scattered along their slopes, embowered among vineyards and gardens, and backed by the foliage of the umbrageous walnut. It is well suited for a wintering-place, by reason of the mildness of its climate, as shown by southern flowers which flourish there.

The **Ch. of San Lorenzo** is planted on an eminence, commanding a fine view (below the rly. stat.). The fabric is older than the 15th cent., and traces of the original building are to be seen in the clerestory, outside. The façade is richly adorned with sculptures (dated 1517). It has been a collegiate ch.

of secular canons since the 11th cent., and in 1888 was raised by the pope to the rank of a cathedral ch. The see of Lugano is for the present held by the bishop of Basel, and an Administrator Apostolic resides at Lugano. Thus a vexed question of long standing has been arranged, the Swiss bits (i. e. the Canton of Ticino) of the dioceses of Milan and Como, now forming the purely Swiss diocese of Lugano.

Close to the H. du Parc (from 1525-1848 a convent of Zoccolanti or strict Franciscans), is the **Franciscan Ch. of Santa Maria degli Angeli**, founded in 1499, containing remarkable paintings in fresco by *Bernardino Luini*; particularly a Crucifixion of large size covering the wall which divides the choir from the nave of the ch. It is one of the finest works of the Lombard school. Below are figures, life-size, of St. Sebastian and St. Roch (? a portrait of Luini). A Madonna with the 2 children, in fresco, removed to a side-chapel on the rt., is a work of great beauty and refinement. The Last Supper is in 3 compartments. These paintings were almost the last works of Luini, who painted these frescoes 1529-1530, when driven from Milan by the wars. Bishop Lachat, of Basel, late Apostolic Administrator of Ticino, to whose advocacy of Papal Infallibility the origin of the sect of the Old Catholics in Switzerland is due, was buried in this ch., 1886, by his own special desire. Of all the numerous convents, those of the Capuchin Friars (transferred here in 1650 from Sorrenzo, where it had been founded in 1566) and nuns (1747) alone survive.

The **Giardino Gabrini**, on the margin of the lake, contains a statue (over-praised), *La Desolazione*, by the sculptor Vincenzo Vela, a native of Lugano, who modelled the statue of William Tell on the *fountain* before the H. du Parc. The Belvedere of the *Villa Enderlin*, on the summit of the hill, commands a beautiful view.

Like Locarno, Lugano was taken

by the Swiss in 1512, and ruled as a subject district till 1798, and in 1803 it became part of the new Canton of Ticino. Till recently it shared with Bellinzona and Locarno the privilege of being the cantonal capital for alternate periods of 6 years, but quite lately Bellinzona has been made the sole capital. At Lugano are considerable factories for throwing silk grown in Canton Tessin; and Lugano further derives activity and prosperity from being the entrepôt of goods shipped across the lake from Italy, to be transported over the Alps, and *vice versâ*. A large fair is held here on the 9th October, but the St. Gotthard Rly. has greatly diminished its importance.

**Monte Caprino**, the mountain opposite Lugano, is penetrated by grottoes which have been converted into cellars, called *Cantine*. Numerous small houses for the sale of the wine are built over them; so that at a distance they have the appearance of a village. They are much resorted to in summer by the townspeople on account of their coolness, but are not worth visiting.

**Excursions.**—*a.* Ascent of *Monte Generoso* (Rte. 114). Those who do not ascend the mountain to Dr. Pasta's, may take a beautiful drive by the villages under its W. cliffs; *Rovio* (a good Pension) and *Arogno*.

*b.* Ascent of *Monte San Salvatore*, the summit of which (2982 ft.) can now be reached in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. from Lugano by the new funicular railway. Many trains daily, stations at the Paradiso suburb and at Pazzallo. It is proposed to build a large *Inn* on the summit, now crowned by a pilgrimage chapel. The sweet-scented purple cyclamen covers the hill-side in the spring; in the autumn the *Daphne Cneorum*. Wooded nearly to the top, this mountain forms a promontory, washed on two sides by the L. of Lugano. The view extends over the different arms of the lake, and is bounded by the snowy Alps. The distant prospect cannot be com-

pared with those from the Mottarone and Generoso, as it is limited in many directions by intervening mountains; but the view of the Monte Rosa chain, and the glimpses of more distant snowy peaks heighten the effect of the beautiful scenery near at hand. Travellers should not leave the path; the sides of the mountain are precipitous.

'Monte San Salvatore stands amid the intricacies of the Lake of Lugano, and is, from a hundred points of view, its principal ornament—rising to a height of 2000 ft. above the town, and, on one side, nearly perpendicular. The ascent is toilsome, but the traveller who performs it will be amply rewarded. Splendid fertility, rich woods, and dazzling waters, seclusion and confinement of view contrasted with sealike extent of plain, fading into the sky—and this again, in an opposite quarter, with an horizon of the loftiest and boldest Alps—unite in composing a prospect more diversified by magnificence, beauty, and sublimity than perhaps any other point in Europe, of so inconsiderable an elevation, commands.'—*Wordsworth*.

The road to Como exhibits a phenomenon highly interesting to the geologist. About 10 minutes' walk beyond the promontory and ruin of the chapel of *San Martino* a compact, smoke-grey limestone appears by the roadside, in beds about a foot thick. As we advance, we find the limestone traversed by small veins, lined with rhombs of dolomite; and farther on, these veins become fissures, the stratification ceases to be distinct, and, where the mountain is perpendicular, its face is formed entirely of dolomite. This becomes gradually purer and more white, towards Melide, where it is succeeded by a dark augite porphyry. The geologist Von Buch considered that the gas discharged from this latter igneous rock, at the time when the mountain was upheaved by volcanic forces, penetrated the



limestone through fissures, and converted it into dolomite. The change in colour and substance, from a grey limestone to a white crystalline marble, like loaf-sugar, may be easily traced by the roadside.

c. A drive round *Monte Salvatore* by *Figino*, *Morcote* and *Melide* in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. The road goes by *Pambio*, where, in front of the ch. is a statue by *Vela* in memory of a young rifle-volunteer, *Francesco Carloni*, who fell at *Somma Campagna*, July 24, 1848. On the hill to the rt. is the village of *Gentilino* and monastery of *S. Abbondio*. The road leads down a rich valley to the *Agno* arm of the lake at *Figino*. *Morcote* stands at the point of the promontory. The ch. and appendant buildings form a striking group high above the town, and are reached by 300 steps, with a statue to their builder, a local benefactor, in a niche at the bottom. The ch. has a stately campanile, from which the view of the windings of the lake is of uncommon beauty. Six houses of *Morcote* sank into the lake Sept. 10, 1862. Thence the road leads to *Melide*.

d. Another charming drive is under the N. and W. slopes of *S. Salvatore* by *Carabbia* and *Ciona* to *Carona*. The views are of singular richness and beauty, especially when the *Monte Rosa* range is visible. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from *Carona*, through park-like scenery and chestnut-woods, is the Ch. of *Madonna d'Ongero*, commanding a glorious view. A wood-path leads down to *Torello*, a suppressed monastery with a late 12th cent. Romanesque and Transition ch. *Figino* and the high road lie  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. below.

e. Ascent of *Monte Bré* and *Monte Boglia*. Directly facing *Lugano*, on the N. shore of the lake, is *Castagnola*, with a conspicuous white ch. tower, and above it rises *Monte Bré* (3058 ft.), easily ascended from that point to which a boat may be taken. The path to the top passes the village of *Bré*. The descent can be made N. by *Pazzalino*; or the excursion

can be prolonged to *Monte Boglia*, 4961 ft. above the sea, and with a view little inferior to that from the *Generoso*. A path leads thence to *Oria*, on the N. shore of the *Porlezza* branch of the lake, where the steamer for *Lugano* may be caught.

f. A boat excursion may be made to *Gandria*, a little beyond *Castagnola*, walking back by the cliff-path. The cactus, *Aloe* (*Agave americana*), Sweet-scented Bay, and other plants of a warm climate, give the vegetation a thoroughly southern character. The *Pteris Cretica* is found growing in the crevices of the rocks. To go and return,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

g. A little beyond *Gandria* is *Oria*, where the steamer stops. Thence walk, or take a boat to *S. Mamette*, and walk up the ravine of the *Val Solda* to *Drano*, where there is a fine waterfall, and to *Puria*; descend and cross the ravine to *Castello*, perched on a summit, and return to *Oria* for the second steamer. From *Castello*, *Monte Boglia* (see *e* above) may be ascended.

h. On the S. shore of the lake is *Osteno*, where the steamer stops. Here a singular ravine or *Orrido* (the local word for a gorge), accessible only by boat, well deserves a visit. It is the gorge of *Pfäffers* on a small scale. There are also some stalactite caverns. *Argegno*, on the lake of *Como*, may be reached by a very interesting route of 11 m. by *S. Fedele* and *Castiglione* in *Val d'Intelvi*. On the hill 2 hrs. above *Osteno*, near *Lanzo d'Intelvi*, is the *H. Belvédère* (good), and another, the *Paraviso*, beautifully situated, and accessible by a char-road from *Osteno* or *Maroggia*. A path connects them with *Dr. Pasta's Hotel* on *Monte Generoso* (see *Rte. 114*).

i. Drive N. up the valley of the *Cassarate* to the convent of *Bigorio*, which crowns a hill, 20 min. walk beyond the village of *Sala*, 9 m. from *Lugano*. The views and the *Capuchin Convent* (founded 1535) interesting. Its ch. contains a picture ascribed to *Perino della Vaga*, and

to Luini, but now considered to be by an unknown Flemish artist of the School of Luini. You may return on foot along the heights by the village and chapel of S. Bernardo, and the villages of *Camano* and *Porza*; or by carriage by the *Lake of Origlio*, and the villages *Cureglia*, *Vezia*, and *Massagno*.

Near the Lake of Origlio and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s. walk from Bigorio or about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s. drive from Lugano past Tesserete is the village of **Ponte Capriasca** in the ch. of which is a remarkable fresco of the Last Supper, so closely resembling (apart from certain details) the famous picture of Leonardo da Vinci at Milan that it has been held by high authorities to be a replica of it by a contemporary and possibly a pupil. It is in much better preservation than the original, and if restored at all has been much more carefully treated. The light is best between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The **Lago di Lugano** (called also *Ceresio*) is exceedingly irregular in shape making several very acute bends; its greatest length is  $21\frac{3}{4}$  m., and it is about 2 m. broad at its widest part, and 918 ft. deep, while it covers an area of  $19\frac{1}{2}$  sq.m., and lies at a height of 889 ft. Its E. and W., and one of its S. arms, terminate in Italian territory.

The scenery is surpassingly beautiful, and has a character distinct from that of Como and Maggiore in being more rugged and uncultivated. It at the same time presents great variety; near Lugano the shores of the lake are as smiling, as frequently speckled with white villas and chs., and as richly fringed with vines, fig-trees, and walnut-groves, as the more garden-like borders of the Lago di Como; but, in penetrating its E. bay to Porlezza, the mountains assume a wild and precipitous outline, and the darker tints of the rock and oak copse furnish the predominating colour.

Steamers from Lugano to Porlezza (rather over 1 hr.) thence *Steam Tramway*, in correspondence, to Menaggio

in about 1 hr. more. Those who wish to enjoy the scenery at their leisure will prefer a row-boat.

**Porlezza.** Here is the Italian custom-house. The examination of luggage is generally slight.

The road to Menaggio is one of the most beautiful in this lovely region. Passing on the rt. the little Lake of Piano, it ascends to a considerable height, whence there is a glorious view over the Lake of Como, and then descends by steep zigzags to

**Menaggio**, a village of 1492 Inhab., beautifully placed on the W. shore of the Lake of Como. Those who are going to Bellagio may wait for the steamer, but had much better take a row-boat. A carriage-road has been carried on to Cadenabbia (Rte. 116).

Near by is the handsome *Villa Vigoni*, built by the Frankfort banker *Mylius*, with some good modern statues, and a mausoleum, with sculptures by Thorwaldsen.

The pedestrian, with a guide, may reach Cadenabbia or La Majolica without descending by the carriage-road to Menaggio. The path is rough, but the scenery beautiful.

## ROUTE 116.

CHIAVENNA TO COLICO AND COMO.

—LAKE OF COMO.

RAIL AND STEAMER.

The high-road connecting the Splügen pass with Milan runs through the valley of the *Maira* or *Mera*, and along the E. shore of the L. of Como to Lecco. The village it passes through are described under the head of the Lake of Como. A railway runs from Chiavenna to Colico ( $16\frac{3}{4}$  m.) and it is intended to continue it to Lecco along the E. shore of the lake. Below Chiavenna (Rte. 87) the valley of the *Maira* is flat and marshy till it reaches

**Riva**, near the N. extremity of the *Lago di Mezzola*, called also Lago di Riva. It is the true head of Lago



di Como, separated from it in the course of centuries by the deposits of the Adda. Its W. and E. shores are so walled in by mountains that, down to recent times, there was no road by the side of it, and travellers were carried across it in barges by a tedious navigation. The naked granitic ranges have a very peculiar outline. Their sides are furrowed with ravines, down which, at some seasons, torrents precipitate themselves, strewing the margin of the lake with wreck. The engineers who constructed the new road, finished 1835, experienced the greatest obstacles in crossing the débris at the mouth of these ravines. The Codéra, one of the most furious torrents, spreads its waste of rocks and gravel in the shape of a fan, for a breadth of at least half a mile. This river at ordinary times trickles through the stones in 3 or 4 paltry driblets, crossed by wooden bridges under which the water is turned by artificial canals flanked by wedge-shaped dykes. [*Val Codéra* is a steep, wild glen. At the hamlet of Codera is a rough *Inn*. Fine foot-passes lead over to the Baths of Masino (Rte. 101).] After traversing this desolate space the line emerges upon the delta of the river Adda, flowing from the E. out of the Valtellina. The causeway stretches in a straight line across this morass, passing the Adda upon a substantial stone bridge. Near the centre of the plain the great road to the Stelvio (rly. as far as Sondrio) branches l. (see Rte. 101). The Spanish Fort Fuentes, built 1603, as the key of the Valtellina, on a rock, once, perhaps, an island, near the mouth of the Adda, is left on the rt., and the margin of the lake of Como is reached at

**Colico**, a village under Monte Legnone, S. of the mouth of the Adda. It is less unwholesome than formerly, owing to the drainage of a large portion of the marsh-land. It is not, however, a good halting-place. Hence a rly. runs up the Valtellina to Sondrio (Rte. 101).

## Lake of Como.

The **Lake of Como** (the ancient *Lacus Larius*), 700 ft. above the sea, is about 30 m. long, by either arm, from 1 to 2½ m. broad, and everywhere deep, in places 1358 ft. Its S. extremity is divided into two branches by the promontory of Bellagio; at the end of the S.W. bay lies *Como* (Comum), the birthplace of the younger Pliny and Volta; at the extremity of the E., *Lecco*. The chief feeder of the lake is the Adda, which enters it at the N., and flows out at Lecco. In the mingled sublimity and beauty of its scenery, and in the richness of its vegetation, it is rivalled by other Italian lakes. None of them, however, has its shores so lined with villas, palaces, and gardens, and on this account many tastes prefer the narrow and winding reaches of Como to the broader expanses of Garda and Maggiore. The lake enjoys a classical reputation, as the residence of the two Plinys, and the scene of the scientific researches of the elder Pliny, the naturalist. Claudian describes the voyage up the lake in the following elegant lines:—

‘Protinus umbrosâ quâ vestit littus olivâ  
Larius, et dulci mentitur Nerea fluctu,  
Parvâ puppe lacum prætervolat, ocius inde  
Scandit inaccessos brumali sidere montes.’

A true poetic picture is presented by the author of *Philip van Artevelde*:—

‘Sublime, but neither bleak nor bare,  
Nor misty are the mountains there,  
Softly subline—profusely fair,  
Up to their summits clothed in green,  
And fruitful as the vales between,  
They lightly rise,  
And scale the skies,  
And groves and gardens still abound;  
For where no shoot  
Could else take root  
The peaks are shelved, and terraced round.  
Earthward appear in mingled growth  
The mulberry and maize, above  
The trellis’d vine extends to both  
The leafy shade they love.  
Looks out the white-wall’d cottage here,  
The lowly chapel rises near;  
Far down the foot must roam to reach  
The lovely lake and bending beach;  
While chestnut green and olive gray  
Chequer the steep and winding way.’

In fine weather during summer the winds are invariable: from sunrise to 10 or 11 the *tivano*, a gentle breeze, N., or down the lake: calm for an hour or two till past 12, when the *breva*, a gentle breeze, S., or up the lake, rises, and continues till sunset, after which a dead calm till sunrise. Boats avail themselves of these winds, and wait for them as a river-barge waits for tide. As a general rule, the surface is but slightly furrowed; sudden storms are, however, not rare, and the violent squalls that sometimes sweep down the lake are dangerous. The old-fashioned boats are most picturesque, and exactly resemble those depicted by old painters. They are not so slow as their appearance would lead one to expect. There are, however, modern boats fitted in the English style, and not uncomfortable. The principal fish are the trout, pike, and *agone*, the last peculiar to the lakes of Lombardy.

**Steamers** go several times a day up and down the lake, touching by a very devious course at the different villages. For short trips, however, a rowing-boat is much preferable to a steamer. The boats are attached to the hotels, and have somewhat high tariff prices. The steamers start from Colico, and reach Como or Lecco in 4-4½ hrs. They are large, comfortable boats (good *Restaurants* on board). There is also a diligence-road on the E. side of the lake to Lecco, a very fine piece of engineering.

The principal places on the l.-hand or East are marked E., those on the other side W.

Starting from Colico, we come to

**Domaso, W.**, beautifully situated under the *Corno di Duria* (7156 ft.), and nearly opposite Colico and the *Monte Legnone* (8567 ft.) About 1 m. from it is

**Gravedona, W.**, a large and populous village, 'ought not to be left unvisited by anyone who cares about architecture' (G. E. Street) on

account of its 2 very interesting churches—*Santa Maria del Tiglio* (12th cent.), with square W. porch surmounted by a graceful octagon tower, and Romanesque triforium running round the interior—and *S. Vincenzo*, with curious crypt, one of the pillars bearing a fresco of Christ, while in the sacristy are old church-plate, a chalice, paten, and processional cross. The huge villa with four towers was built by a Cardinal Gallio. By the valley of the Liro, which here flows into the lake, are 2 passes—the *Passo di Camedo* (6298 ft.) to Roveredo, in the Val Mesocco, and the *Passo Sant' Jorio* (6418 ft.), in about 9 hrs. to Bellinzona.

**Dongo, W.**, where are iron-works.

Beyond Dongo there is no carriage-road, but only an ancient track called *Strada Regina*, which, according to tradition, was made centuries ago by Theodolinda, Queen of the Lombards. Where it passes the precipices of the *Sasso Rancio*, between Rezzonico and Menaggio, it was at one time so dangerous that several of the Russian soldiers, when traversing it, 1799, fell from it into the lake.

**Musso, W.**, on the mountain side, the *Castle of Musso*, the stronghold (1521-1531) of the soldier of fortune, Giovanni Giacomo Medici or Medeghino, brother of Pope Pius IV.; it was razed in 1532 by the men of the Grisons, after many struggles, one of which is immortalized in Travers' poem (Rte. 81). Medeghino, nominally in the service of Charles V. as Duke of Milan, tried to extend his power in the districts conquered by the Grisons men—Chiavenna, the Valtellina, and Bormio, held 1512-1797, the Tre Pievi or parishes (Dongo, Domaso, and Gravedona), held 1512-1525.

**Dervio, E.**, at the foot of Monte Legnone.

[The *Legnone* (8567 ft.), the highest mountain rising from the shores of



the lake, may be ascended from Colico, but more easily from the Val di Varrone, on the S. from Pagnona or Premana, where travellers will find rough accommodation. It is a long and fatiguing day's work (6 hrs. from Dervio, Club hut 1 hr. below the top), but the view from the summit, when clear, is of the highest order.]

**Rezzonico, W.**, has the remains of a 13th-cent. castle, now belonging to the Duke Litta. The boatmen here have the reputation of being the best on the lake.

**Bellano, E.**, at the mouth of the *Pioverna*, the stream from the *Val Sassina*, a beautiful valley, with iron-works and a waterfall (*Orrido di Bellano*); through this valley the pedestrian who has already seen the lake may reach Lecco in 6 or 7 hrs., passing **Introbio**, the principal village.

**Gittana, E.**, on the slope of the mountain. Above this, and about 700 ft. above the lake, by a good road, is the large and excellent *Hydropathic Establishment of Regoledo* (1401 ft.), much frequented both by Milanese and foreigners.

**Varenna, E.**, the best stopping-place on the E. side of the lake, but, owing to its exposure, hot in summer, near the mouth of the beautiful glen of *Esino*. Visit the remarkable galleries excavated in the solid rock, on the *Road of the Stelvio*. Pleasant walks up the mountain to the Castle, to the hamlet of Perledo, and along the brow of the hill 1 m. to the cascade of the *Fiume Latte*, which issues directly from a cavern in the side of the mountain. It is a very beautiful walk of 4 hrs. to Introbio in the *Val Sassina* by the little valley of *Esino* and the *Cainallo Pass* (4101 ft.). By the same valley the mountaineer can make the ascent of the

*Grigna* or *Moncodine* (7907 ft.), the summit of the rugged range which in tier over tier of limestone precipices overhangs the S.E. branch of

the lake, commonly called the *Lago di Lecco*. The best plan is to go first to the village of **Esino**, and there inquire for a shepherd boy who knows the mountain and will serve as a guide. The path lies to the rt. from near the head of the valley, and presents a variety of beautiful and wild scenery. A *Club hut* has been built for the use of tourists at a height of 6155 ft., whence the top is reached in 2 hrs., or 5 from Esino, or 7 from Varenna. An easier but less interesting way is by the steep eastern side from near Introbio, and it would be the best plan to combine both, ascending from Introbio, and descending to Varenna. The *Grigna* commands a panorama of the greatest splendour, embracing the vast plain of Lombardy and the whole circle of the Alps, from the Col de Tenda to the Bernina. The S. peak of the mountain is called the *Campione* or *Pizzo della Pieve* (7176 ft.), and is girdled by impassable cliffs, except towards the E., on which side a rock close to the summit may be reached from the head of the *Val Sassina*.

**Menaggio, W.** (Rte. 115).

The steamer now crosses to the promontory of Bellagio, which juts out into the lake, dividing its two southern branches. The formerly charming aspect of the village from the water has been destroyed by the erection of two monster hotels.

**Bellagio.** This is a delightful spot, commanding the most noble and varied views over the lake. The prospect is triple, extending upwards, as well as down towards Como and Lecco. The best points for enjoying it are the very beautiful terraces and gardens of the *Villa Serbelloni*, now a hotel (fee 1 fr.). They occupy the whole brow of the promontory. There are few near walks at Bellagio, nothing but narrow stony lanes between dead walls, obstructing all view, but excursions into a more open country can be made. The most interesting to a

good walker is the ascent of the *Monte S. Primo*, the highest point of the peninsula, 5226 ft. above the sea, an ascent of 4 hrs. on foot or donkey.

[There is a carriage-road from Bellagio through Canzo to the railway station at Erba, between Como or Lecco—a very beautiful drive. No traveller should omit to follow this road as far as the village of **Civenna** for the sake of the exquisite views it commands of the Lecco and Colico arms of the lake.]

The *Villa Melzi*, about half a mile below Bellagio, is elegantly fitted up. It has fine works of art—statues, busts, a portrait of Napoleon, but is chiefly visited on account of its beautiful flower-garden, abounding in tropical plants, rare pines, &c.

The *Villa Giulia*, on the Lecco side of the promontory, once belonged to the King of the Belgians, and now belongs to Count Blom of Vienna. It has beautiful gardens.

There are other villas in the neighbourhood to which the boatmen will take visitors. They all have their state rooms, but are principally remarkable for the luxuriance with which English green-house plants flourish in the open air.

There cannot be a more delightful voyage than that along the S.W. arm of the lake to Como; the shores are lined with villages and with white villas, the summer resorts of the Milanese gentry during the *villeggiatura* season.

The steamer here recrosses to

**Cadenabbia**, W. This is, perhaps, the most delightful place on the lake.

There are beautiful walks above Cadenabbia. Striking up the first little passage N. of the H. Bellevue, a pretty path through fields and vineyards leads, in 25 min., to the ch. and village of *San Martino*. A white chapel will be seen high up on the shoulder of the mountain beyond. A rough and steep path commanding beautiful views over the lake leads, in about an hour more, to the

little chapel of the Madonna di San Martino.

A longer excursion is the ascent of the *Monte Crocione*, 5601 ft. above the sea. There is a circuitous path by which mules may reach the summit. The view, though of course very beautiful, is not equal to those from the Monte Generoso, the Legnone, or the Corno di Canzo W. of Lecco.

Close to Cadenabbia is the most splendid villa on the lake, *Villa Carlotta*, formerly *Sommariva* (belonging to the Duke of Saxe-Meiningen), among terraces bordered with myrtle hedges 20 ft. high. This contains the *Amore e Psyche*, and other works of *Canova*, and, above all, *Thorwaldsen's* grand bas-relief of the Triumph of Alexander, executed for Napoleon when Emperor, and designed by him to decorate the Simplon arch at Milan.

The villa is called Villa Carlotta, after a daughter of Prince Albert of Prussia, who married the present owner, and whose mother bought it in 1843. The house and grounds are shown (fee 1 fr.).

The next village to Cadenabbia, with which it is connected by a narrow road, is

**Tremezzo**, W. Beyond this a rocky promontory stands out into the lake; its rounded summit is laid out as a pleasure-ground, and near the point is the fine *Villa Balbianello*, belonging to the Marchese Arconati. The rocks here descend into very deep water. Rt. is the small island (the only one in the lake) *Isola Comacina*, and a few miles farther on the same side,

**Lenno**, W. The *Crypt* beneath the ch. close to the shore has two 6th cent. inscriptions, and is well worth a visit. The vault is supported by eight pillars with early sculptured capitals. The rude tracery in the windows is very curious. Close to the ch. is a very perfect specimen of an octagonal Romanesque baptistery. The pilgrimage



ch. of *La Madonna del Soccorso* is  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s walk above the village; fourteen stations at intervals along the path-way.

**Argegno**, W., at the opening of the beautiful *Val Intelvi*. A char-road leads through it to Osteno, on Lago di Lugano and Lanzo d'Intelvi (11 m.). Hence the Monte Generoso (Rte. 114) may conveniently be ascended. Nearly opposite, at the foot of the *Monte S. Primo*, is

**Nesso**, E., one of the most picturesque villages on the lake. In a narrow ravine, called the *Orrido di Nesso*, is a fine waterfall. In the W. shore a remarkable cavern pierces the mountain above *Torrigria*. It is of considerable extent, and when discovered contained the remains of various animals, particularly of the cave-bear, after which it is called the *Buco dell' Orso*. About 7 m. S. of Nesso, not far from Torno, in a nook on the lake, is the

*Villa Pliniana*, E., built 1520, now the property of Marchesa Trotti-Belgiojoso, a square building, so called, not because Pliny lived there, but because an intermittent spring, rising behind it, is asserted to be the one minutely described by him.

The *Villa Lenno* is supposed to stand on the site of *Pliny's Villa*, which, from its sombre situation, he called *Tragedia*; an opinion confirmed by the discovery of broken columns, &c., in the lake.

Nearly opposite is the hamlet of

**Moltrasio**, W., which also boasts its waterfall; near to it the large *Villa Passalacqua*; and on the E. shore, on a projecting point, the picturesque village of **Torno**. Thence to Como, wherever the slope of the mountain is not too steep, villas constantly succeed each other. Those of Prince Trubetzkoi (formerly belonging to Taglioni the dancer), of the late Madame Pasta, the singer, of Herr Mylius, and of Count Taverna, are amongst the most noticeable. These villas, like all the places on the E. shore of this

branch of the lake, are accessible only by water, or by an exceedingly rough path, fit only for mountaineers.

On the W. shore, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Como, is

**Cernobbio**, W. The *Monte Bisbino*, 4387 ft., which rises N. of the hotel, and may be ascended in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., commands an admirable view. There is a good carriage-road to Como (and omnibus),  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s drive. On the way is passed the *Villa Ramondi*, one of the largest on the lake.

**Como**. The railway station is outside and above the town. See, near the harbour, the statue of *Volta* (1745–1826), 'a prophet justly honoured in his own country:' *Cathedral* (1396–1732); its Baptistery, wrongly said to be after a design of Bramante's, but really built 1596; 3 paintings by Luini: *Broletto* (town hall), 13th cent., on arches. These buildings are of marble, in stripes. (See HANDBOOK FOR NORTHERN ITALY.)

The antiquary should not omit to visit S. Carpoforo (9th cent.), S. Fedele (6th cent.), and S. Abbondio (10th cent.), about a mile out of the town. The villages by the lake and the scattered hamlets on the mountains are believed to contain many remains of early mediæval architecture which would well repay careful investigation.

### Lago di Lecco.

A good carriage-road runs along the E. shore, threading several tunnels.

The scenery of this arm of the lake is larger and bolder, but less picturesque, than that of the Como arm. There are few villages and no villas; but the precipices of the Grigna rise most imposingly above the E. shore. Beneath them, among vineyards and chestnut-groves lies **Mandello**, the only large village on this part of the lake.

**Lecco Rly. Terminus** is a prosperous manufacturing town, not remarkable except for its position at

the point where the lake first narrows into a river, and under the imposing rocks of the Resegone (=Saw). Rlys. to Milan and Bergamo. (HANDBOOK FOR NORTHERN ITALY.)

[A pleasant uphill drive of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. leads to **Introbio**, in Val Sassina (Inn, fair), a good starting-point for the ascent of the Grigna, or for the Bergamasque valleys.]

## ROUTE 117.

### ARONA TO VARALLO, IN THE VAL SESIA.

Eng. m.

	<b>Arona</b>	
$6\frac{1}{4}$	<b>Borgománëro</b>	} Carriage-road
$7\frac{1}{2}$	<b>Romagnano</b>	
8	<b>Borgo Sesia</b>	} Railway
$15\frac{1}{2}$	<b>Varallo</b>	

It is a drive of about an hour from Arona to Borgománëro, a town of 9553 inhabitants (several *Inns*) and station on the Domo d'Ossola and Novara Rly., whence another rather longer drive leads to

**Romagnano Stat.**, on the Sesia, is remarkable as the spot where Bayard—*sans peur et sans reproche*—received his death-wound while protecting the rear of the French under Bonnivet in their retreat across the Alps, Apr. 20th, 1524. At Romagnano the Novara-Varallo rly. is joined. From Romagnano the course of the Sesia is singularly beautiful; the mountains as they are approached offer richly wooded slopes, and the masses are relieved by castles, churches, and oratories. The vegetation is most luxuriant.

The principal place before arriving at Varallo is (8 m.) **Borgo Sesia Stat.** (4126 Inhab.), just above the junction of the Strona, on which stream lies **Valduggia**, birthplace (1484) of *Gaudenzio Ferrari*, the painter, which is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Borgo Sesia, and the last rly. stat. before

it on the line from Novara. [Through Valduggia a beautiful carriage-road leads to the S. end of the Lake of Orta and so to Orta. The *Monte Fenera* (2950 ft.), an ascent of 3 hrs., in the same direction, is a splendid point of view for the lakes and Alps, and has 3 curious caverns hung with stalactites.]

[From Borgo Sesia a very beautiful country road leads to **Biella** (20 m.) (Rte. 124), passing through Crevacuore and Mosso Sta. Maria. The beauty of the region where the Alps and plain meet is very insufficiently known to English travellers. Those who do not care for the high passes will find the road from the lakes through Biella to Ivrea and Val d'Aosta full of beauty and interest.]

At Borgo Sesia the valley becomes narrower, and the road offers some striking scenes, though the range of view is more limited. It opens again in the neighbourhood of

$15\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Varallo Terminus.** There are many *Inns*, and they are needed to provide for the bodily wants of the pilgrim visitors to the Sacro Monte, who, especially on the Festas of the Church, crowd here as devotees. At the Casino di Lettura the *Italian Alpine Club* has its quarters, where foreigners can see maps and books. The situation of this town of 3289 Inhab. is so beautiful, and the sanctuary on its celebrated Sacro Monte—*La Nuova Gerusalemme nel Sacro Monte di Varallo*—so singularly picturesque, that no one who has the opportunity should neglect to visit Varallo.

The **Sacro Monte** rises immediately above the town, and is accessible by a paved path, which winds up the side of the hill, and offers from every turn the most beautiful scenes.

In the fine *Ch. dei Frati* (Sta. Maria delle Grazie), at the foot of the S. Monte, are some admirable works by *Gaudenzio Ferrari* (1484–1549), (a na-



tive of Valduggia, on the Strona, and a pupil and companion of Raphael), executed after his return from Rome, 1510-13. The whole wall dividing the nave from the choir (the passage from one to the other being only through a small arch) is painted by him in fresco, in 19 compartments, representing events in our Saviour's history—the central and largest being the Crucifixion. They are all most carefully executed, and are among the best works of the master, serving to illustrate his position in Italian art. In a side chapel (rt.) are also 2 frescoes by him—the Presentation in the Temple and the Dispute with the Doctors; not so good. In the cloister is a Pietà; and in the sacristy a Virgin and saints, on wood, by Giovenone, much injured.

In the *Ch. of S. Gaudenzio* is a fine altarpiece on panel, and on the external wall of the *Ch. of S. Pietro*, a painting of Sta. Petronilla, both by G. Ferrari.

The hill of the Sacro Monte is covered with a series of 50 chapels or oratories, containing groups of figures modelled in terra-cotta, painted and clothed. They chiefly represent some of the principal events in the history of Christ, in the order of their occurrence. These structures are never entered; they are merely frames or cases for the subjects grouped within them, seen from 2 or 3 peep-holes in front. As works of art the greater number are very indifferent. A few, 5, 38, and 40, on the contrary, contain works of high merit, by Gaudenzio and his pupils, and to these the attention of every traveller of taste is specially invited. He will be sorry to miss them, as he might easily do, in passing rapidly along. Externally, these oratories are rich in the architectural display of façades, porticos, domes, &c.: the figures within are the size of life.

The subjects are in the order of the numbers of the chapels.

1. The Fall of Man. Adam and

Eve are seen amidst animals of all sorts and sizes, from the elephant to the rabbit.

2. The Annunciation.
3. The Visitation.
4. The Angel announcing to Joseph the Miraculous Conception.
- 5.\*The Magi and Star of the East, by *Gaudenzio* and his pupils.
6. The Nativity.
7. Joseph and Mary adoring Christ.
8. The Presentation in the Temple.
9. The Angel advising Joseph to fly into Egypt.
10. The Flight.
- 11.\*The Murder of the Innocents. Above 60 figures, the size of life, besides the painted groups on the walls, so arranged as to assist the composition.
12. The Baptism in the Jordan.
13. The Temptation.
14. Christ and the Woman of Samaria.
15. Christ curing the Paralytic.
16. Christ raising the Widow's Son.
17. The Transfiguration. This oratory, by Pietro Petera, a native of Val Sesia, the largest of all, perhaps 100 ft. high, is on an enormous scale; the group in the foreground contains the demoniac boy; on the mountain, an immense modelled mass, are the three disciples; above them Christ, with Moses and Elijah; over these, painted on the walls and ceiling of the dome, are the host of heaven; and above all, God the Father.
18. The Raising of Lazarus.
19. The Entrance into Jerusalem.
20. The Last Supper.
21. Christ in the Garden.
22. Christ finds His Disciples sleeping.
23. Christ betrayed by Judas.
24. Christ in the House of Annas.
25. Christ in the Hands of Caiaphas.
26. The Repentance of St. Peter.
27. Christ in the House of Pilate.

28. Christ in the House of Herod.
29. Christ reconducted to Pilate.
30. The Flagellation.
31. Christ crowned with Thorns.
32. Christ again conducted to Pilate.
33. Christ shown to the People.
34. Pilate washing his Hands.
35. Christ sentenced to Death.
36. Christ bearing the Cross.
37. Christ nailed to the Cross.
- 38.\*\*The Crucifixion.

The paintings on the walls and ceiling of this chapel are the masterpiece of *Gaudenzio Ferrari*. The chief subject, a splendid composition, including 60 or 70 figures, is in good preservation. Observe the soft beauty of the group of females and children.

39. Christ taken down from the Cross.
- 40.\*The Pietà—the Women around the Body of Christ. This was the earliest work of *Gaudenzio*. The frescoes, now much injured, were painted when he was but nineteen. The original modelled figures have been removed, and others substituted.
41. The Body wrapped in Linen.
42. San Francesco.
43. Christ lying in the Sepulchre.
44. Saint Anna.
45. An Angel announcing to the Virgin Mary her Translation to Heaven.
46. The Sepulchre of the Virgin Mary.

All the walls are painted, and many of the pictures are masterly productions of *Pellegrino Tibaldi*, whose name is found in the list of those who were employed upon the works of the Sacro Monte di Varallo; together with those of local artists born and working on the spot, and many other artists of eminence, as painters, sculptors, and architects. The valleys of the Novarese, of which Val Sesia is the principal, are remarkable for the number of painters they have produced, and the names of many are preserved here as hav-

ing contributed to the embellishment of this singular sanctuary.

Some effect is produced by the appropriate arrangement of some of the subjects. The access to the place where Christ is laid in the sepulchre is by a vault, where little light is admitted.

Many of the figures are clothed in real drapery, and some have real hair, which appears grotesque, yet they are full of character and expression; many of the heads are finely modelled. In the subject of the Visitation the head of a female is strikingly fine. The executioners conducting Christ to Calvary, or otherwise employed in inflicting suffering on Him, are, in order to increase the disgust for their characters, modelled with goitres appended to their throats.

The Sacro Monte originated in the piety of the Beato (i.e. on the way to be canonized) Bernardino Caimo, or Coloto, a noble Milanese, who obtained in 1486, from Pope Innocent VIII., a faculty to found this sanctuary. Only 3 or 4 chapels were built in the time of the founder, but after two visits paid to it by S. Carlo Borromeo in 1578 and 1584, the prestige of the spot for sanctity soon so increased, that princes and rich devotees contributed to make it what it now is. The pallet *bedstead*, upon which the sainted archbishop of Milan died, is preserved here as a holy relic for the veneration of the faithful.

The convent, where the priests reside, in a beautiful situation, commands views of Varallo and the Val Sesia below the town. At the entrance to the Oratories, booths of shops are established for the sale or *corone*, i.e. beads, crucifixes, Madonnas, &c., which have acquired sanctity by having touched the blessed bed of the holy S. Carlo, or other miracle-working relics.

Near Varallo are some abandoned nickel-mines, formerly worked by an English company.

The population of the Val Sesia is



about 35,000; most of the men leave the valley and find employment elsewhere as masons, builders, painters, house-decorators, &c.

There is good *trout-fishing* in the river.

The *Ponte della Gula*, about 1 hr.'s walk up the Val Mastallone, is a remarkable scene; the green river, hemmed in by vertical rocks 150 ft. high, is spanned by a lofty bridge. A good carriage-road goes to the village of Fobello (see Rte. 122).

### ROUTE 118.

BAVENO TO VARALLO, (A) BY MONTE MOTTARONE, ORTA, AND THE COL DE COLMA, (B) BY VAL STRONA.

	Baveno
9 m. . . .	Omegna
7 m. . . .	Orta
5 hrs. . . .	Varallo

**Orta** and its beautiful lake may be reached from Baveno (Rte. 111), either by passing over the Mottarone, a walk or ride of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., or by the carriage-road through Omegna, or by driving to Gravellona and taking the rly. there.

**Monte Mottarone.** A cog-wheel rly. will shortly be constructed up from Stresa.

The mule-path from Baveno, passing through chestnut-woods during the lower part of the ascent, is carried over a neck of the mountain a long way below the summit, which is reached by a grassy slope ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Baveno). At the base of this are several dairy-farms or chalets, on the Alpe delle Volpe, where the traveller can obtain refreshment in the shape of excellent cream, milk, cheese, &c.

The *view* from the Monte Mottarone (4892 ft.) is most extensive. In front are the hills of the Val Sesia, leading the eye up to the peaks of Monte Rosa. The line of snowy

peaks to rt. of the latter, embracing the Cima di Jazzi, Fletschhorn, Monte Leone, and Bortelhorn, appears to great advantage. Farther E. rise the peaks and glaciers near the Bernardino and Splügen Passes, and in the further distance the Bernina Alps. Almost at his feet the traveller sees 5 lakes—Maggiore, Orta, Monate, Comabbio, and Varese; and still farther to the rt. the great plain of Lombardy and Piedmont, studded with innumerable villages, with Milan in the centre. The two great tributaries of the Po, the Sesia and the Ticino, appear like silver ribbons traversing the dark ground of the plain; the distant Apennines of Parma and Modena close this exquisite panorama to the S.; whilst the plain of Lombardy stretches afar to the E. until lost in the horizon.

Mule paths lead up to the *Inn* near the summit from Orta through Armeno, and from Stresa and Baveno in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 hrs.

[Char from Baveno to Orta, 12 fr. The carriage-road follows the Domo d'Ossola road to *Gravellona* (Rte. 111). It then turns to the l., and ascends continually through a valley of no remarkable beauty to

**Omegna.** This is a village at the N. end of the Lake of Orta, beautifully situated, but containing nothing worth notice. There is a tiny steamer on the lake.

The lake is a more pleasant way of reaching Orta than the road by the side, but takes somewhat longer. The road is, however, good and very pretty, passing through chestnut-woods and fields covered with vines and green crops. The rly. covers the distance from Gravellona to Orta Stat. in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr.]

**Orta** (1220 ft.). Rly. to Novara (27 m., in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.); to Domo d'Ossola ( $28\frac{1}{2}$  m., in 2 hrs.). The stat. is at *Miasino*, a short distance E. of Orta itself. This town (980 Inhab.) is delightfully placed on the borders of the lake. The facilities for fishing, boating, and bathing in

the lake, offer inducements for a short stay in this cool and delicious retirement. The charming *villa* of Count Natta has beautiful gardens above the town.

Along the edge of the lake are many comfortable houses, either belonging to or hired by Milanese and Turinese families for the summer.

The **Monte Sacro**, or *Santuario* (built 1590), is dedicated to Saint Francis of Assisi, and is approached by 21 chapels or oratories, like those of Varallo. Some are elegant in their architecture; and they contain, as at Varallo, groups in terracotta, representing scenes in the life of St. Francis, of which at least seven are fair works of art. The ironwork in many of the chapels is exquisite and well worthy attention. The hill is covered with noble firs and other trees, and the magnolia and cactus are seen growing in the open air. The views from the Monte Sacro are of singular beauty, comprising the lake, the neighbouring mountains covered with wood, villages which speckle the shores and sides of the hills, the whole surmounted by the Alps.

The custode of the Monte is to be found at the first chapel within the gate. From Aug. 2 to Aug. 9 is the great festival on the Sacro Monte. Vast numbers of people assemble, and there are booths, swings, &c., as at a fair.

The *Isola di San Giulio*, between Orta and Pella, is an object of singular beauty. The church and village surmount a rock which rises out of the deep lake; and the bright buildings contrast with the blue waters with a fairy-like effect. The church, partly modernized (a curious pulpit), was built on a spot rendered sacred by the retreat of San Giulio, in the 4th cent.; here his ashes are preserved in a vault; and the vertebrae of a monstrous serpent (in reality bones of a whale), said to have been destroyed by the saint, are shown as a relic.

The church contains frescoes by *P. Tibaldi*; a side chapel rudely painted by an unknown master, 1486; another entirely by *Gaudenzio Ferrari*, the chief subject the Virgin and Child enthroned, singularly graceful, but injured; above, the Martyrdom of St. Stephen; on the vaulted roof the 4 Doctors of the Western Church, with the Evangelistic symbols — interesting examples of the pure Lombard style; a curious pulpit, and bas-reliefs of S. Giulio driving out snakes from the island. Willa, the wife of Berengar II., King of Italy, took refuge on the island in 962, and defended it resolutely against the Emperor Otho I., who had invaded Italy and deposed her husband, chosen king in 950. Otho restored the island to the bishops of Novara, who had long held it before it was seized by Berengar.

On the island is an *Inn*.

It was the plan of General Chasseloup to continue the great route of the Simplon along the shores of the Lake of Orta; but the difference of level—Orta being 550 ft. higher than the Lago Maggiore—led to the adoption of the line by Baveno.

[The drive may be continued to Arona (3 hrs. from Orta), over hilly country. Omnibus daily.]

#### COL DE COLMA.

**Orta to Varallo** 5 hrs. [There is a beautiful carriage-road from Orta by the S. end of the lake and through the Valduggia to Borgo Sesia Stat., and so to Varallo.] The lake is crossed by boat to

**Pella**, the village opposite Orta, where donkeys may be hired for crossing the *Colma* to Varallo  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

On the Varallo side a road has been made from Varallo to the village of **Civiasco**. By writing to the innkeeper of the *Italia* at Varallo a light carriage will meet the traveller there, and will save him an hour's ride on his donkey on a dusty road. It takes about 3 hrs. to ride from Pella to Civiasco.



A shorter track runs rt. about 150 yds. beyond the Col—leaving Rocca on the l.—and joins the old road about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Varallo.

This romantic pass is described in Mr. R. Browning's poem, *By the Fireside*. A steep path leads up the mountain side to Arola amidst the richest vegetation; vines, figs, gourds, and fruit-trees, and with delightful views of the Lake of Orta. Forest-trees offer their shade, and the road in some places passes amidst precipices of granite in a state of decomposition; here many of the specimens sold at Baveno are obtained. Above these rocks the path continues through scenes resembling the most beautiful park scenery of England, and then opens upon the *Col de Colma* (3215 ft.), a bushy common, where, from an eminence on the l., wide views are presented of the Lakes of Orta and Maggiore, and the plains of Lombardy, and, towards the Alps, by mounting a slight eminence on the l., of Monte Rosa.

The descent on the other side is not less beautiful. The Val Sesia is seen in the deep distance, richly wooded and studded with churches and villages; the path leads down by sunny glades and slopes, which sometimes recall the most agreeable recollections of home to an English traveller. At *Civiasco* there is a very picturesque *Chapel*, painted outside and in by pupils of Gaudenzio Ferrari; over the entrance is a lunette by himself, now under glass, of great beauty. Below the village are quarries, formerly worked for the buildings of Varallo, buried in a forest of enormous walnut and chestnut trees. Issuing from this wild dell, the traveller shortly finds himself in the Val Sesia at Rocca, about 1 m. from

**Varallo.** See Rte. 117.

### B. Val Strona.

The bridle-path from Omegna to Varallo by the *Val Strona* involves a considerable circuit, but the scenery will amply compensate the traveller

for his extra labour. The distance, 14 hrs., might be accomplished in one day by an active pedestrian, but it is a better plan to sleep at Fobello, where there are good country *Inns*.

The **Val Strona** is a narrow glen whose steep sides are clothed with fine forest-trees and a beautiful and varied vegetation. From Omegna a rough paved path, in some parts rather steep, ascends the valley, through chestnut-woods, and at every turn presents new pictures of exquisite beauty. It passes Chesio rt. and Strona l. to *Forno*,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr., and ascends over rough ground to *Piana di Forno*, and then easily up beech-covered slopes to

**Campello**,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr., a very picturesque village, but not offering good quarters. Here the path turns l., leaving the source of the Strona and a track to the Val Anzasca rt., and ascends first over rocks and then by slopes of grass to the

*Bocchetta* or *Colle di Campello*,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. It is a pass of no great height (6319 ft.) on the ridge which separates the Val Strona from the Val Mastallone. The Monte Rosa, of which 5 peaks, rising like turrets from the prodigious wall which forms its eastern face, are from 12 to 14 m. distant, presents one of the grandest views to be seen in the Alps. A steep descent of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr. leads to the village of **Rimella** in the Val Mastallone, 1 hr. from Ferrera. Accommodation may be had at Rimella, but it is better to push on to

**Fobello.** The carriage-road thence to Varallo is described in Rte. 122. [From Rimella there is a mule-path by the *Col d'Orchetta* (5971 ft.) to Ponte Grande in about 6 hrs. At the last hamlet of the valley it crosses the torrent, and turning l., ascends by a lateral stream to a group of high chalets, where milk can be obtained. Thence up steep and bare ground to the col, which is a grassy hollow marked by a cross,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. from Rimella. Ponte Grande is seen far down in the Val Anzasca,

but the Pizzo del Moro and Pizzo Tignaga conceal the Monte Rosa peaks. The descent is long and steep, over rolling stones to the Alpi d'Orchetta, then by meadows to the Baranca path, 1 hr. above Ponte Grande, which is reached in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the col.]

Another way from Omegna to Varallo, rather longer and more laborious than the ordinary route by the Col de Colma, but much shorter than that by the Val Strona, is by the village of *Quarna*, and from thence over the *Monte Massucone* (4672 ft.), or the *Monte della Croce* (5394 ft.), to *Camasco*. The former mountain is a somewhat enlarged edition of the *Mottarone*, which lies a few miles farther E. It is situated nearer Monte Rosa, but is not so centrally placed in regard to the lakes. By this route Omegna is about 8 hrs.' walk from Varallo.

### ROUTE 119.

#### VARALLO TO ALAGNA. THE VAL SESIA.

Eng. m.		
7	. . . .	Varallo
$9\frac{1}{4}$	. . . .	Balmuccia
$16\frac{1}{4}$	. . . .	Scopa
$20\frac{1}{2}$	. . . .	Mollia
$21\frac{3}{4}$	. . . .	Riva
		Alagna

A good carriage-road.

The **Val Sesia** offers scenery of less rugged grandeur than some of its lateral valleys; but many landscapes of great beauty are passed, the fine forms and rich wooding of the mountain slopes, the sometimes tranquil, often furious course of the Sesia and traces of ancient glacier action being the most striking features. At *Balmuccia* the wild *Val Sermenza*, called also *Val Piccola*, opens on the rt. (Rte. 122). The next village is **Scopa**.

At **Scopello** there are many smelting-houses, where the copper

ore of the now abandoned mines was reduced. Chars can be obtained from Scopello to Varallo,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  fr.; 2 hrs.

There is not much variation in the scenery, though the whole is pleasing. The road passes *Piode*, *Campertogno* and

**Mollia**, beyond which, to the left of the road, is one of the largest of the serpentine blocks (with a little chapel on it) in the *Val Sesia*, transported by the glaciers in ancient times.

**Riva Val Dobbia**, 3648 ft., the chief of the high villages in the valley; picturesque from a distance. It is situated at the confluence of the torrents of the *Vogna* and the *Sesia* at the foot of the *Col de Val Dobbia* (Rte. 123).

The *Church of Riva* will surprise the traveller by its excessive decoration, and the real talent with which it is painted within and without, chiefly by one of the numerous artists whom the *Val Sesia* has produced—*Melchiorre d'Enrico*, a native of *Alagna*. The external paintings have a remarkable freshness, though they have existed more than 200 years exposed to the weather in this high valley, thus proving the dryness and purity of the air.

The view of *Monte Rosa* from *Riva* is magnificent; its enormous masses, covered with snow and ice, rise at the head of the *Val Sesia*, and form a scene of extraordinary grandeur.

About  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. above *Riva* is

**Alagna**, 3908 ft., beautifully situated.

For passes and excursions from *Alagna*, see Rte. 123.

### ROUTE 120.

#### DOMO D'OSSOLA TO MACUGNAGA BY THE VAL ANZASCA.

Eng. m.		
7	. . .	Domo d'Ossola
		Piedimuléra



Eng. m.	
3 . . .	Castiglione
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ . . .	Ponte Grande
2 . . .	Vanzone
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . . .	Prequartera
3 . . .	Pestarena
3 . . .	Macugnaga

A good carriage-road from the Piedimuléra Stat. on the Domo d'Ossola rly. (7 m. or 18 min. from Domo) to Ceppo Morelli, a little above Vanzone; after that a mule-path. About 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. up to Macugnaga, 6 hrs. down; char to Ceppo, 12 fr., to Ponte Grande, 7 fr. Post cart with 4 places plies between the stat. and Ceppo. *Mules* are to be had at Ponte Grande, and at Ceppo Morelli.

**Val Anzasca** combines all that is most lovely in Italian with all that is most grand in Swiss scenery. The mountain sides are covered with vines, figs, chestnuts, and walnuts, the architecture of Italy is around, the sky of Italy above. Against it rises one of the noblest mountain shapes of the Alps, the great eastern face of Monte Rosa.

It is difficult to decide whether this and the following rtes. should be taken from the Italian or the Swiss side. The Val Anzasca is certainly seen to greater advantage by the traveller who ascends the valley with Monte Rosa facing him all the way. But the effect of the unrivalled view from the summit of the Moro is enhanced by the abruptness with which it is presented to him who arrives from the Swiss side, and the views in descending the Moro towards the Val Anzasca are finer than on the side of Saas. In either case, the only way to do justice to the attractions of this valley is to halt one or more days at Ponte Grande and Macugnaga. Ladies can cross the Moro with less fatigue from Saas than from Macugnaga, as in the former case they may ride very nearly to the top of the pass.

The *Inns* at Macugnaga are very fair; the *Inns* at Ponte Grande

and Ceppo Morelli are tolerable. The other villages are small, and their *Inns* poor.

The line from Domo d'Ossola runs in a nearly straight past *Villa d'Ossola Stat.* [Here the Antrona valley joins the main valley, Rte. 111] to

**Piedimuléra Stat.** (801 ft.), the first village in the Val Anzasca.

Here lives the receiver of the gold and other mines situated near the head of the valley.

The road ascends along the l. bk. of the Anza, and traverses two short tunnels in the rock. It is carried high up along the vine-clad slopes, and commands a noble view downwards over the Val d'Ossola and upwards towards Mte. Rosa, which comes into sight soon after entering the valley, and gives indescribable beauty to the distance, while the near mountains falling in wooded slopes on either side, form a magnificent foreground. The unrivalled prospect is seen to great advantage just before reaching.

**Castiglione.** The road passes rt. *Calasca*, then descends to the Anza, and runs some distance along its banks. There is a pretty waterfall bursting out of the Val Bianca shortly before reaching

**Ponte Grande.** This is the central point of the lower Val Anzasca, and the best position for a halt of a few days. It is a considerable village (1719 ft.) with a post-office, in a beautiful position at the junction of the Val Olocchia with Val Anzasca, and receives its name from a *bridge* of a single arch across the Anza. Here, and elsewhere in Val Anzasca, the neat dress of the women, the general cleanliness of the people, their cheerfulness and independence, and the rareness of goitre, will be remarked with pleasure, as contrasting with other parts of Piedmont.

To the S., through **Bannio** (the chief village of the Val Anzasca), on the opposite bank, are the rtes. to the *Baranca Pass* to Fobello in Val Mastallone in 5 hrs., and the *Col d'Egua*

to Rimasco in Val Sermenza, in  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. (Rte. 122).

**Vanzone** (2221 ft.). See the view from the terrace in front of the chapel, a little above the village.

**Ceppo Morelli.** Here the carriage road ends for the present, but the continuation to Macugnaga has been already begun. There is a remarkable *bridge*, very steep, springing on one side from a boulder stone. By crossing this bridge and returning through a path in the pine wood near the river many ferns may be found. A little way above this village is one of the finest views in the valley, where the vast height of Monte Rosa may be fully appreciated, as it towers into the sky. There is a short cut for pedestrians from Ceppo Morelli to Campioli and again from the Ponte del Valt to Borca, along a wooden staging raised above the bed of the stream, and formerly used as a wood-slide.

[At **Prequartera** a path branches off (rt.) into the Saas Thal by the *Passo Mondelli*, 9321 ft., 6 hrs., nearer than the pass by the Moro, but without its fine view of Monte Rosa.]

A spur descending from the Pizzo della Caccia, called the *Morghen*, here divides the Val Anzasca from Macugnaga. (The distinction is further marked by the languages spoken by the people; above this German prevails, below it Italian.) This vast mass of mountain nearly closing up the valley, is cleft by a deep and savage gorge for the Anza to escape.

At **Campoli** where the river issues out of the gorge, the bridle-road crosses to the rt. bank, and passes in a steep ascent over this rocky barrier by the hamlet of *Morghen*. It next descends rapidly and returns to the l. bank by the Ponte del Valt.

**Pestarena** is a miserable village, whose inhabitants earn their livelihood in the mines of gold, silver, and copper. The gold occurs in very small quantities, combined

with (pyrites) sulphuret of iron. The ore is pounded and ground, and the metal is obtained from it by amalgamation in the proportion of 6 grammes, or at the best 10, of gold to 100 kilogrammes of ore. The mine is worked by an English Company, which in 1880-81, won 7249 oz. of gold, worth £25562. Its net profits were £4,390. There are not many places in Piedmont where gold is found.

The road ascends steeply, passing the adits of many mines; it is crossed by numerous torrents, which cut it up, or cover it with rubbish, rendering the ascent toilsome.

35 min. above Pestarena, the traveller comes on the very magnificent view of Monte Rosa, at a village called

**Borca** (no good *Inn*), about 2 m. below Macugnaga; the black-cock is found here. At Borca, and above it, a German patois is the language of the people, though as Italian is taught in the schools, it is rapidly superseding the historical language of this glen at the head of the Anzasca valley. The path over the *Turlo Pass* to Alagna (Rte. 123) diverges l. [Pedestrians *down* the valley may follow the wood-slide path from Borca to the Ponte del Valt, and again from Campioli to Ceppo Morelli. In the gorge it is broken away.]

The commune of **Macugnaga** (718 Inhab.), consists of several hamlets, Pestarena, Borca, in der Stapf (Staffa), auf der Rive (Rippa), Zertannen (Pecetto), in der Tifte (Testa), and in der Eie (Isella). Borca is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s walk from Pestarena, and as far from the rest, which lie only a few minutes' walk apart from one another.

**Macugnaga** (*Staffa*).

Visitors should stop some days at Macugnaga to enjoy the noble scenery. The village, 4354 ft. above the sea, is situated in a grassy basin or luxuriant meadow, studded with



hamlets. (The glacier torrent, owing probably to the sudden bursting of a sub-glacial reservoir, has ruined some of the meadow-land by covering it with mud and boulders.) It is shut in on all sides by towering Alps. To the N. are the exceedingly steep slopes—partly rock, partly turf—of the Moro; to the S. the precipices and forests of the Pizzo Bianco; to the W. the head of the valley, a recess filled with ice, and circled round for many a mile by the cliffs of Monte Rosa. The *old ch.*, with an ancient linden-tree beside it, is a picturesque object. There is an inscription on the lower part of the plain campanile, stating that this building was begun on June 7, 1580, but it is certain that this refers to its restoration, and not to its original construction (unless of the campanile alone), for the church of St. Mary and its parson are mentioned in a deed of sale of 1317 (Bannio is the only church in the valley which is older), while the pointed S. doorway with its drip-moulding, and the traceried windows of the choir (one at least Geometrical, the others showing traces of Flamboyant influence) not merely point back to the 14th cent. as the date of its foundation, but prove its Teutonic origin, so that the building itself is a monument of the German colonization from the Valais. (See below.) A new ch. was erected about 1841.

**Excursion.**—The great object of a visit to Macugnaga is the view of MONTE ROSA, which is not surpassed, if it can be equalled, by any scene in the Alps. In fine weather it may be enjoyed to perfection by the following walk, which will occupy 8 or 9 hrs., or the best part of the day.

Ascend the meadows, and after crossing the Anza, mount the huge ancient moraine, now covered with stately pines and called the *Belvedere*, against which the glacier divides into two ice-streams. This is one

of the finest points of view; and those who are not inclined to make the whole tour may return hence to Macugnaga. Ladies can go part of the way on mules, or the whole way in a chaise-à-porteurs.

Then cross the north arm of the glacier to the chalets of *Jazzi*, at the foot of the Cima di Jazzi, and walk along the lateral moraine to the chalets of *Fillar*, at the foot of the northernmost peak of Monte Rosa, called the Nord End, and just below the *Old Weiss Thor Pass*.

Now cross the moraine, enter upon the glacier, and proceed along it for some distance. The ice is crevassed, but with a guide there is no danger. The surface after a time becomes more even, and may be traversed for a considerable distance, but a convenient goal is a singular waterfall, where a stream precipitates itself into a chasm in the ice. The view from this spot is exceedingly striking; the observer stands in the middle of a vast amphitheatre, of which the snow-clad walls form some of the highest mountains in Europe. Commencing on the east, are the Pizzo Bianco, and Cima della Pissa, from which a snow-sheeted ridge leads to the great central group of *Monte Rosa*, whose precipitous sides descend immediately 7000 or 8000 ft. in one almost unbroken slope to plunge below the ice on which the traveller stands. Glaciers hang from these amazing crags, and avalanches of great magnitude are often seen to detach themselves and fall with a noise like thunder. From the summits of Monte Rosa another ridge extends northwards to the Cima di Jazzi, and then, bending eastwards, to the pass of the Monte Moro, which is well seen.

Leave the glacier on its eastern edge, and descend the moraine to the chalets of *Petriolo*, near which are some enormous fragments of rock that have probably fallen from the Pizzo Bianco; one is 500 ft.

in circumference, and about 120 ft. high, and is perhaps the largest block to be found in the Alps.

From Petriolo a return track leads along the mountain-side on the south of the glacier often at a great and commanding height, and a steep and intricate descent through the forest brings the traveller back to Macugnaga.

A few words on the topography of Monte Rosa may not be out of place here. It is by no means a single summit, but a *knot* or union of two ridges or chains crossing each other at right angles, so that its ground plan may be said to resemble a +. The N.E. angle forms the head of the Val Anzasca, and encloses the glacier of Macugnaga, as the N.W. does that of Gorner, near Zermatt: the S.E. is the head of the Val Sesia, and the S.W. under the Lyskamm the cradle the Lys Glacier and the head of the valley of Gressoney.

The four principal peaks are ranged along the north ray of the cross, and are all visible from Macugnaga. Beginning at the left hand, or south end, the first is the *Signal Kuppe* (14,965 ft.); the second, a snowy pinnacle, the *Zumstein Spitze* (15,004 ft.); the third, a rocky tooth, the *Höchste Spitze*, whose highest crag is 15,217 ft. above the sea; and the fourth, or most northerly, the *Nord End* (15,132 ft.).

The pass from Macugnaga to Zermatt, formerly known as the *Weiss Thor*, lies between the Cima di Jazzi and the Nord End of Monte Rosa, and is said to have been frequently crossed since the 16th cent. by parties of pilgrims on their way to Varallo. For many years past the guides have asserted that the old pass (most probably lying close under the cliffs of the Jägerhorn, just N. of the Nord End), is no longer practicable, owing to the accumulation of ice over the edge of the precipice, yet it was certainly traversed by M. Adolf Schlagintweit in 1851, and parallel passes in 1861 by Mr. Tuckett and by Prof. Tyndall—all not unfrequently crossed

since. The *New Weiss Thor Pass* is described in Rte. 127. A way to it from Macugnaga, easier but longer than the ordinary rte., is from the top of the Moro Pass, by the Seewinen and Schwarzenberg Glaciers (3 hrs. from col to col). This is the *Arête Blanche* of the old accounts. (Rtes. 121 and 127.)

On July 22, 1872, an ascent was made direct from the Macugnaga Gl. to the *Höchste Spitze*. Its possibility had been conceived by a Saas man, Ferdinand Imseng, settled at Macugnaga, and under his guidance the Messrs. Pendlebury, the Rev. C. Taylor, and 2 other guides reached the top in 13 hrs. from their bivouac, 4½ hrs. above Macugnaga. This ascent is one of the most dangerous in the Alps on account of avalanches, but unluckily the Italian Alpine Club have built a lofty hut, the Marinelli hut (named from an Italian climber who in 1881 with his guide was killed by an avalanche while making the ascent), to facilitate the expedition, which is not in itself difficult but an extremely unsafe one.

Visitors who return by the Val Anzasca, should devote a day to the ascent of the Monte Moro pass, and, if possible, of the *Joderhorn* (9974 ft.), to the E. of it. A far grander summit is the *Pizzo Bianco* (10,552 ft.), reached in 6 hrs. up, 3 down. Macugnaga is a resting-place on the *tour of Monte Rosa* by glacier passes (see Rte. 127, at end). The mountaineer reaches it by the New Weiss Thor, and leaves it by the

*Col delle Loccie* (11,001 ft.), over the ridge connecting the Monte delle Loccie with the Signal Kuppe, and leading to the head of the Val Sesia. This is a fine but difficult pass, only fit for practised mountaineers, and 14 hrs. to Alagna. It is best taken from this side. The way to it lies along the glacier as far as possible, then by a climb on the rocks to the rt., and finally by a steep ice-slope. The descent to Val Sesia is comparatively easy.



The *Turlo Pass* to Alagna is described in Rte. 123.

For a full account of the smaller excursions which can be made from the Val Anzasca, see Bazetta and Brusoni, *Guide de l'Ossola*; for the more difficult ones, vol. ii of Conway's *Pennine Guide*.

The German-speaking colony at Macugnaga has been the subject of much investigation. It now seems clear from a careful examination of the documents that in 999 the Benedictine Abbey at Arona obtained, by exchange from the archbishop of Milan, the 'alp' or pasturage of Macugnaga, which certainly as late as 1256, perhaps as 1262, was still in its possession and not yet used for arable purposes. But when the Val Anzasca came in 1247 into the hands of the Counts of Biandrate, a powerful family taking its name from a small town on the Sesia near Novara (who were also the lords of Visp from about that time), Count Godfrey in 1250 established a colony of Italian-speaking folk from the Val Anzasca in the 'alp' or pasturage of Saas on the other side of the Monte Moro. The 'alp' of Macugnaga also came into the hands of the same family and they established there a German-speaking colony from the Valais, some time between 1262 and 1291. As in the latter year an elaborate treaty was made between the men of Saas and of Macugnaga to put an end to disputes amongst the herdsmen, it would seem as if the Macugnaga colony had been established already some time.

This is the authentic history of the two colonies. Italian traces still remaining in names, etc., at Saas, and German at Macugnaga (e. g. the Anza river is still known as the Visp).

Perhaps the German-speaking colony at Alagna and Riva in the Sesia valley (with its offshoots at Rima and Rimella) was also settled there by the Counts of Biandrate (who had large estates there), if so before 1270; but it is also possible

that it may have come over from the Lys valley, the upper part of which belonged to the bishops of Sion, and was certainly inhabited by German-speaking Valais men as early as 1218, who probably came in the 12th cent. by way of the Théodule and the Ayas valley to the W.

All these colonies form part of the great 13th cent. emigration of German-speaking people from the Valais, traces of which have been pointed out in other parts of this work at Davos, in the Rheinwald district and neighbouring glens, in the Val Formazza, and at Ornavasso near Domo d'Ossola. Their history is being now worked out from the documents, but no complete recent monograph on the whole question has yet been published. The following essays are, however, worth consulting:—

1. Alb. Schott, *Die Deutschen Colonien in Piemont* (Stuttgart, 1842).

2. H. Bresslau, *Zur Geschichte der Deutschen Gemeinden im Gebiet des Monte Rosa und im Ossolathal*; an excellent article in No. 93 of *Koner's Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin* (Berlin, 1881).

3. Julius Studer, *Walliser und Walser* (Zürich, 1886).

## ROUTE 121.

A. MACUGNAGA TO VISP—MONTE MORO—SAAS.

B. PASSES OVER THE FLETSCH-HORN RANGE.

C. PASSES OVER THE SAASGRAT.

Hrs.

		Macugnaga
4	.	Summit of Moro Pass
2	.	Mattmark See
2	.	Saas
3½	.	Stalden
1½	.	Visp

A. The pass of Monte Moro is one of the least difficult over the main chain between the Great St. Bernard and the Simplon: still it is not practicable for horses, though there

are traces both on it and the neighbouring Antrona Pass of old paved horse-roads.

Near it occur a number of names which lend themselves to an Arabic derivation, and have been considered as evidence of the establishment in the Saas valley of a colony of the Saracens, who in the 10th cent. infested the Alpine passes and robbed and murdered pilgrims (Rte. 135, and *Alpine Journal*, Nos. 64 and 65).

The following list and derivations have been given: *Mte. Moro* itself; *Calasca* (Kal'ah, 'a castle'—cf. the *alcalas* and *calatas* in Spain and Sicily); the hamlet *Morghen*; *Almagel* (Al-mahal, 'the watch post'); *Mattmark* (Matt mar, 'the Moor's meadow'); *Eien* (Äin, 'a fountain'); *Distel Alp* (?); *Allalein* (Alâ l'aïn, 'at the source'—a very graphic name for its position in reference to the ice cataract and the Visp torrent); *Mischabel* (pronounced like 'Mi-gebel,' (?) Mont Gibello); *Balfrin*, 'the peak with 2 sources.' The settlement of Saracens at Saas is not impossible; but further proof seems to be required before it can be affirmed as an ascertained historical fact.

On the other hand, it is certain that in 1250 the Saas valley was colonized by Italian-speaking men from the Val Anzasca (Rte. 120 *ad finem*), of which settlement traces still subsist, though obscured by the results of the Teutonic occupation of the Visp valleys by the men of the upper reaches of the Valais at the end of the 14th cent.; many of the names mentioned above seem to be really Italian in a German dress.

The colonies of Italians at Saas (1250), and of Valaisans at Macugnaga (1262–1291), imply the frequent use of the Monte Moro, but the first distinct mention of a path across it occurs in a document of 1403, by which the men of the two valleys agree to keep in repair the road on their respective sides of the pass, and in 1410 the Valais men made a raid

across it, but were defeated at Vanzone. It was much used in the 15th and 16th cents. by pilgrims to Verrallo, and persons going to the fair at Macugnaga or at Vogogna. The name seems to be a cross between the old names, — *Magganaberg* (= Macugnaga mountain or pass), and *Mons Martis*, a Latinized form, referring to the Martinswald or Mattwald below Saas, frequently mentioned in old documents. The latter name appears also under the form *Mundmar* and is connected with the name *Mattmark*. In any case the name of the pass has nothing to do with Lodovico il Moro, Duke of Milan.

The S. side of the pass is too rugged for mules, but on the N. they can go as far as Thälliboden within an hour of the summit, and therefore those who cannot walk well can cross the pass best from the N. *Chaises-à-porteurs* can be had at Macugnaga, but the charges are high.

The ascent is a steady and steep pull of four hours. The path lies at first through a straggling forest, but the green alp is soon attained, and the scene thence presented is most magnificent—all the splendour of Mte. Rosa is open to the view, from its peaks, still thousands of feet above the spectator, to the basin of Macugnaga, now far below. Such a scene cannot be conceived, and once beheld can never be forgotten. From the high pastures the path traverses a stony and barren slope to a small bed of snow which it is necessary to cross. On the summit, amidst a heap of stones, a cross is placed, and the traveller looks down the other side towards the Valais, and upon a scene of sterility which has no relief.

It is well worth while to ascend the *Joderhorn* (9974 ft.,  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr.), a point E. of the summit of the pass. The view of Monte Rosa is not finer, for, in truth, that cannot be surpassed, but the eye is enabled to contrast it with the distant plain of N. Italy and the southern ranges



of the Alps. Without going so far, the traveller may extend the view by mounting the rocks behind the wooden cross; from that vantage-ground he will see Monte Rosa on one hand, and the whole extent of the Saas valley on the other.

The summit of the pass of the *Monte Moro* is 9490 English ft. above the sea. The descent on the Swiss side is singularly wild; at first by a steep bed of snow, and then along an ancient path formed of slabs of stone; in places by steps cut in the precipices; and overhanging a deep hollow into which the Thälliboden Glacier streams down from the Joderhorn, and where the track from the *Mondelli Pass* (9321 ft.), the direct route from Ceppo Morelli, falls in. This cold and dreary ice-basin, and the slopes and heaps of disintegrated rocks around it, form a picture of solitude and desolation. At length the paved road is left, and no vestige of it can be traced; it has been destroyed by the snow and stones which have been precipitated from above. The track winds down the talus formed by these repeated falls, to reach the scanty herbage of the Distel Alp.

The chalets of *Distel* furnish milk, cheese, and eggs, but are deserted early in the autumn.

[To the rt. a lonely track up the Ofenthal crosses the mountains into the *Val Antrona* (Rte. 111). The *Passo d'Antigine* (9311 ft.) is reached in 2½ hrs. by the Ofenthal Glacier from Mattmark. A descent of 2¼ hrs. leads to the Cingino Alp, on the route of the Antrona Pass (see below).]

From Distel the path continues on the rt. bank of the stream all the way to Saas. After quitting the chalets it leads down, in ½ hr., to a grey, desolate lake called the

*Mattmark See* (6966 ft.) formed by the advance of the Allalin Glacier. The *Inn* is tolerable, and forms a convenient stopping-place for travellers (particularly if bound for the higher passes, see below), enabling

them to shorten the journey to Macugnaga by 3 hrs., and to reach the top of the Monte Moro in the early morning, when the view of Monte Rosa is less frequently obscured by mists than later in the day. The scenery of the Mattmark See is extremely desolate; the valley is a mere driftway for snow and wind. To the W. is the Schwarzenberg Glacier, which is now far withdrawn up the mountain side, but formerly extended to the Moro path. It has left a tide-mark in the enormous serpentine boulder close to the inn. On the N. the *Allalin Glacier* bounds the lake, in fact, dams the upper valley, whose waters drain under it, issuing out of a grotto at the other side.

From Mattmark the bridle-path to Saas skirts the lake, and to turn its barrier of ice rises on the mountain side, with a view of the glacier. It then descends by zigzags to the more cheerful lower valley. Precipices rise on the l., and, looking back, the cold masses of the Allalin close the view. The path runs amid stony channels, and a wilderness of rock and brushwood to

**Zermeiggern** (Morgano in the old documents, the name was carried to Macugnaga before 1291, as it occurs in the treaty of that date, and still survives as Morghen), whence there is a rough rte. (see below) to the Val Antrona.

**Almagell** (Armenzello in the 1291 document). Before reaching it larches and pines are passed, but they are stunted from their great elevation. After crossing a little plain, the path leads down to Saas, under the forest-clad slopes of the *Mittaghorn*. To the rt. the Almagellbach descends in a fine fall, and the path of the *Zwischbergen Pass* diverges (see below).

**Saas**, or *Im Grund* (5125 ft.), is the principal village of the valley, 386 Inhab. It seems likely that Saas (= Sasso) is the original Italian name of the village, and Grund the later Teutonic one.

Here lived the enthusiastic mountaineer, *Herr J. J. Imseng*, the parish priest of Saas, from 1836 to 1869. He took a leading share in the exploration of the mountain ranges round Saas, and was drowned (?murdered) in the Mattmark See in 1869.

Saas stands in a basin shut in by lofty mountains—on the W. the Saasgrat, on the E. the chain of the Fletschhörner. The Saasgrat is not seen from the village, lower ranges intercepting the view. To the N. the Bietschhorn forms a fine background to the valley. The plain of Saas is nearly 1 m. long, and its verdant meadows are refreshing to a traveller who has descended from the sterile upper valley.

Every one should visit the valley and hamlet of **Fee** (5299 ft.), surrounded by lofty peaks, a walk or ride of 1 hr. The name is spelt Foe, Fö, in the old documents, and has nothing to do with fairies (fées), but may be what is meant by the *Vemenie rallis et burgus* of a charter of 1300, relating to the Mattmark Alp. A short ascent through the forest direct from the inn, or another path leading upwards by the Fee Chapel and its stations, lands the traveller on a fertile upland of considerable extent, dotted with chalets, and at its head encircled by an amphitheatre of glaciers, on a splendid scale, and by the high summits which separate the Saas and Zermatt valleys, S. the *Allalinhorn*, 13,236 ft., then the *Alphubel*, 13,803 ft., and W. the two principal *Mischabelhörner* — *Täschhorn* (14,758 ft.) and *Dom*. The height of the latter is 14,942 ft., or 916 ft. higher than the Finsteraarhorn. This upland valley is one of the most remarkable spots in the Alps. Alpine meadows and peaceful homesteads are here found in the immediate vicinity of great glaciers and some of the most stupendous precipices in Europe. The contrast is superb, and many visitors are now tempted to a prolonged stay by the excellent inns.

Many high ascents and excursions can be made quite as conveniently as from Im Grund, the Allalinhorn being a very favourite and splendid expedition. In the midst of the glaciers is a singular green slope, almost an island in the sea of ice, called the *Gletscher Alp*, which is used as a pasture in summer, when it is a perfect garden of wild flowers. Its foot is 1 hr. from Fee, and may be reached between the 2 branches of the glacier, which of late years has retreated so as to leave ample room for passage.

The *Trift Alp* (1½ hr. from Saas) commands a view of the Saasgrat opposite, preferred by some good judges to that from Fee. Moderate pedestrians may mount to the *Triftgrätli* (9101 ft.), a spur of the Trift-horn.

The *Egginer* (11,080 ft.) and *Mittaghorn* (10,329 ft.) at the S.E. horn of the crescent of mountains enclosing the Fee valley are also easy of access by a rough scramble, and command splendid views. The rock arête between the two peaks is a capital practice ground for budding mountaineers, and its passage takes about 4 hrs. Among the higher peaks the *Balfrin* (12,501 ft.), *Ulrichshorn* (12,891 ft.), *Weissmies* (13,226 ft.), and *Laquinhorn* (13,140 ft.), are not difficult for moderate climbers, and command glorious views. The *Portjengrat* (12,008 ft.) is much harder, while the *Dom* and *Täschhorn* can only be ascended from the Saas side by first-rate mountaineers.

## B. The Fletschhorn Range.

East of Saas the high range, comprehending the *Rossbodenhorn* or *Fletschhorn* (13,127 ft.), *Laquinhorn* (13,140 ft.), and *Weissmies* (13,226 ft.), abounds in interest.

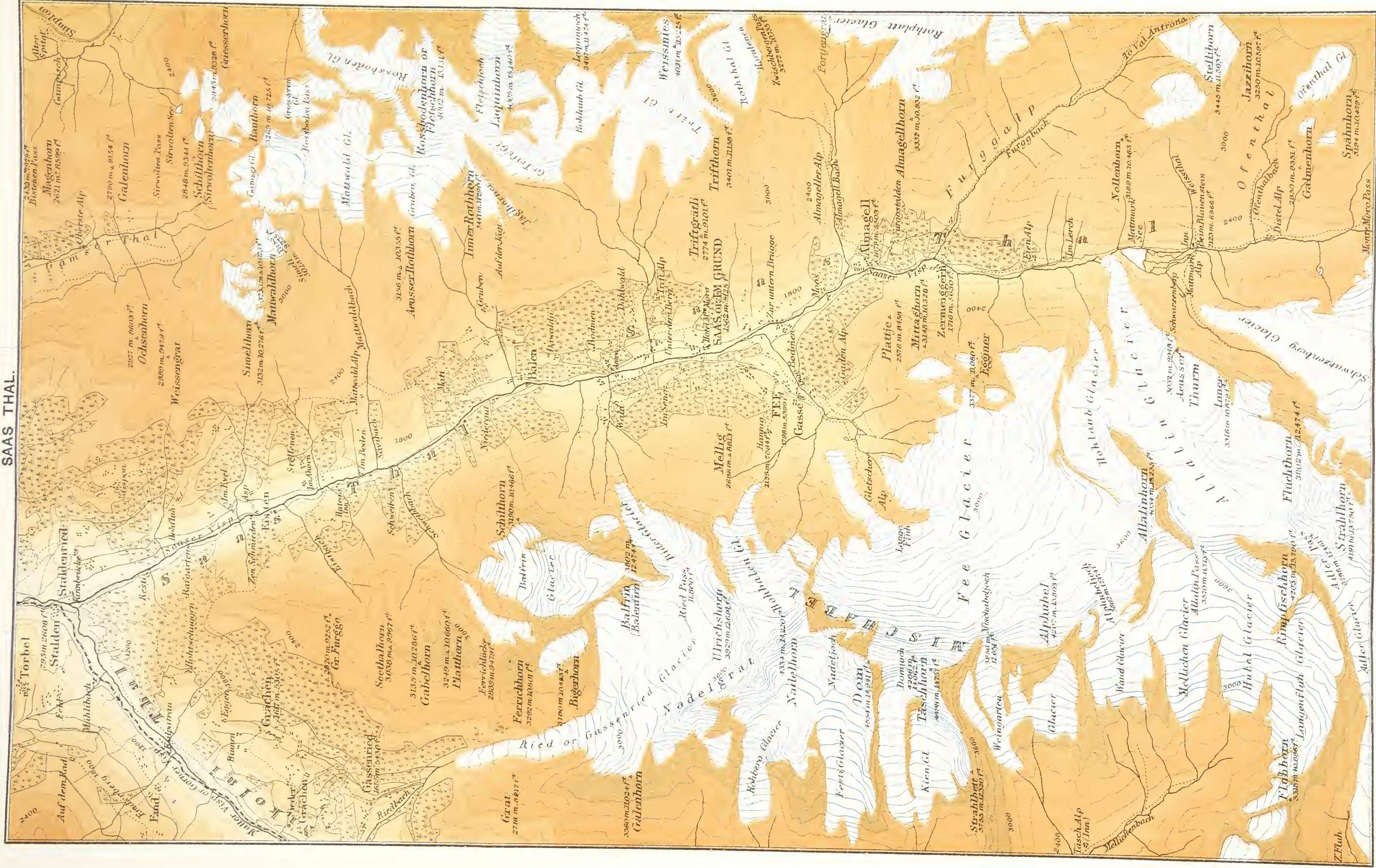
a. The *Passo d'Antrona* (9331 ft.) leads from Almagell to the Val Antrona, below Domo d'Ossola, by the *Furggthal*, a desolate valley slanting S.E. up the mountain-side: the passage of the Furggen Glacier, under the *Stellhorn*, offers no difficulty,







SAAS THAL.



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and the descent to Piedmont is free from ice, but very steep. There used to be a mule-road, of which portions still remain, for the pass was much frequented from the 13th cent. to the 16th, a paved track existing as early as 1217, and repaired in the 15th and 18th cents. 9 hrs. from Saas to Villa d'Ossola (Rte. 111). [North of the col, there is a point called the *Latelhorn* (10,525 ft.), which juts out like a belvedere, and commands a superb view over the Alps from Monte Rosa to Tyrol, with the subordinate ranges of Piedmont, Tessin, and Lombardy. This point is easy of access. Horses can go within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr., or less, of the top; and the remainder of the ascent, except just the horn itself for some 200 ft., is easy. There are beds of snow, but no ice to cross. By a tolerable walker the excursion from Saas and back may be made in 10 hrs., allowing 1 hr. on the top, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. for refreshment.] The descent from the pass leads past the Cingino Alp to Antrona in about 4 hrs.

b. *Zwischbergen Pass*, from Almagell (1 hr. above Saas) to Isella in 11 hrs. The path ascends on the S. side of the waterfall, behind Almagell, steeply for 2 hrs., then for 1 hr. over grass to chalets, whence are seen the *Hörnlinen*, 3 finger-shaped peaks, close to which lies the pass. Mounting towards them l. the snow is reached, and ascended, the final snow-field *not* straight towards a tempting depression, but l. in a slanting direction to rocks by which the col is gained. It is 10,735 ft. above the sea, and commands a most superb view of the Saasgrat, and range of Monte Rosa, and eastwards of Lago Maggiore, &c. The *Weissmies* is easily accessible from the pass. The descent is steep down glacier and moraine, keeping l. until the grass is attained. Then by an easy slope to the head of a gully, an important point to hit. (So far a guide is desirable.) This is descended in zigzags. Below it, for a mile or so, the track crosses

the débris of numerous avalanches, and then runs down the l. bank of the stream to Gondo. The upper part of the valley, or *Zwischbergen Thal*, is wild and barren; the lower, *Val Varia*, grand and beautiful. [From the head of the valley the traveller can reach Domo d'Ossola direct by crossing the *Pontimia Pass* in 4 hrs. to Val Bognanco, the chief hamlet of which is 2 hrs. from Domo; or from the *Zwischbergen* hamlet lower down, he may cross in 2 hrs. the *Furgge* direct to the village of Simplon, either rte. being preferable to the descent to Gondo.]

c. The passes over the highest portion of the chain descend to the village of Simplon. The *Fletschjoch*, between the *Rossbodenhorn* and *Laquinhorn*, is excessively dangerous, the *Laquinjoch* to the S. of the *Laquinhorn*, is very difficult, and the *Thäli-joch*, though easier, involves the passage of the *Zwischbergen Pass* as well. Mountaineers will prefer to go from Saas to Simplon over the *Weissmies* or the *Rossbodenhorn*. Moderate climbers have a choice between several comparatively easy passes N. of the *Rossbodenhorn*. The first of these, the most direct, and highly recommended to climbers, is the *Rossboden Pass* (10,800 ft.) by the *Griesseren* and *Mattwald* glaciers from Simplon to Saas in 9 hrs. There are some very steep rocks to be climbed in order to reach the head of the *Gamser Glacier*, whence you descend at once on to the *Mattwald Glacier*. The other two passes, the *Gamser Joch* (9500 ft.) and the *Simeli Pass* (9863 ft.) lead from the *Gamser Glacier* to the *Saas Thal*, and to reach either of them it is necessary first to cross the *Sirwollen Pass* or the *Bistenen Pass*. By either it is 8 or 9 hrs. from Simplon to Saas.

### C. The Saasgrat.

The valleys of Saas and Zermatt are separated by the noble range of mountains known as the **Saasgrat**, of which the chief summits and passes in their order N. of the Cima

di Jazzi, are as follows:—*New Weiss Thor Pass*, *Strahlhorn*, *Adler Pass*, *Rimpfischhorn*, *Allalin Pass*, *Allalinhorn*, *Alphubel Pass*, *Alphubel*, *Mischabel Pass*, *Täschhorn*, *Dom*, *Nadelhorn*, *Ulrichshorn*, *Ried Pass*, *Balfrin*.

Three of these high passes lead from the Mattmark See, but one of them—the *Adler*—is better taken from the Zermatt side.

a. The *Schwarzberg*, or *New Weiss Thor Pass*, the most direct and easiest pass to the Riffel, mounts a grass-grown moraine on the N. side of the *Schwarzenberg Glacier* to a point above the ice-fall where the glacier is entered upon, and ascended by bearing to the l. towards a crest overhanging the *Macugnaga valley*. This is a narrow ridge of snow (the *Arête Blanche* of the old books), and has to be traversed to the rocks which form the col (11,523 ft. above the sea). Here the *Strahlhorn*, cased in ice, rises close on the N., and there is a glorious view over Italy. On the pass the Italian Alpine Club is now building a large Club hut. The descent passes over rolling fields of *nevé*, to the *Gorner Glacier* for the Riffel, to the *Findelen Glacier* for Zermatt, or from the pass you can descend to *Macugnaga* by a steep but not really difficult rock descent. Time from 9 to 12 hrs.

b. The *Adler Pass*. From Mattmark the upper portion of the *Allalin Glacier* is traversed by a circuitous course, running to the N. side under the *Allalinhorn* (13,236 ft.), and bending round to the S.W. corner, where the col (12,461 ft.), lies between the craggy *Rimpfischhorn* (13,790 ft.) and the *Strahlhorn* (13,751 ft.). The view is magnificent. The *Monte Rosa* chain is splendidly seen; but the mountaineer will aim at a still finer view by climbing the *Strahlhorn*, an hour's ascent by an easy snow-slope. The descent from the col is the well-known difficulty of this rte., and may entail a considerable amount of step-cutting down a wall of ice. It lands the

traveller on the head of the *Findelen Glacier*, which, for some distance, is so crevassed that it requires skill to effect a passage. When this has been accomplished the dangers are over, and the traveller hastens down easier slopes either to the Riffel or Zermatt. Fully 10 hrs. should be allowed.

c. The *Allalin Pass* is the most ancient and the easiest, but the lowest and least interesting of the passes between the Saas Thal and Zermatt, and is now seldom used. The track is the same as that of the *Adler* to the head of the *Allalin Glacier*, where the col (11,713 ft.) lies N.W. between the *Rimpfischhorn* and *Allalinhorn*. The descent is by the *Mellichen* and *Wand Glaciers* and rocks to the *Täsch Alp* (small *Inn*), from which there is a path to Zermatt. Time 9 hrs.

The three next passes start from Saas.

d. The most used is the *Alphubeljoch* (12,474 ft.) about 11 hrs.' walking from Zermatt to Saas, or *vice versa*. It is an easy glacier pass in fine weather, but may be found very fatiguing when the snow is soft. The scenery is throughout fine, and the view from the crest superb.

e. The *Mischabeljoch* (12,651 ft.) is higher, somewhat more direct, and, unless the glacier on the Saas side is highly crevassed, scarcely longer and more interesting. On descending it is necessary to avoid the ice-fall of the *Weingarten Glacier*, by taking to the rocks on its l. bank. 10–12 hrs. should be allowed for this pass.

[The ways forced over the highest crest of the *Mischabel* by trained mountaineers with first-rate guides are not, in any legitimate sense of the word, passes, and are not therefore described here.]

f. E. of St. Niklaus the *Gassenried Glacier* descends from the northern peaks of the *Mischabelhörner*, and by the *Gassenried* or *Ried Pass* (11,800 ft.) at its head a passage amidst very striking scenery can be made from



Saas in about 10 hrs. The rte. ascends by the N. side of the *Hochbalen Glacier* from the Fee valley, crossing the mountain between the *Ulrichshorn* (or Little Mischabel) and *Balfrin*, and descending to St. Niklaus by the immense *Gassenried Glacier*.

From Saas to Stalden, 3 hrs., there is a good bridle-path. The scenery is often extremely beautiful.

Below Saas the valley contracts and forms a defile, which enlarges into a little mountain-closed plain by the village of **Balen** (or Aballa = *ad vallem*), at the foot of the sharp-pointed snow-peak of the *Balfrin*. There is a small *Inn* at the *Hutegg*, and the valley soon closes into a narrow gorge, where the track is forced to mount high above the torrent. Many wooden crosses, memorials of accidents from snow and avalanches, are passed. Above is the *Mattwald* or *Martinswald*, the boundary of the parish of Saas from the earliest times, and beyond it the hamlet of *Eisten*. In 3 hrs. from Saas the valley suddenly enlarges at the junction of the *Saaser Visp* with the main stream of the *Gorner Visp* descending from Zermatt. [From this point, at the top of the descent to Stalden, there is a short cut for pedestrians to St. Niklaus round the shoulder of the mountain. It leaves the path where there are three remarkably fine pine-trees, and runs by the side of a watercourse (by which a stream is carried from the Saas valley into that of Zermatt) and through the forest, descending to the bridge between Stalden and St. Niklaus.] At the foot of a steep hill the path crosses the *Kinnbrücke*, a single arch, 150 ft. above the stream, and enters

**Stalden**, about 5 m. above *Visp*, which can be reached in 23 min. by the new rly. (See Rtes. 56 and 126.)

## ROUTE 122.

### VARALLO TO THE VAL ANZASCA, BY VAL MASTALLONE, OR BY VAL SERMENZA.

There are 4 rte. by which travelers may reach the Val Anzasca from Varallo, all to be preferred to the dull and laborious pass of the *Turlo* (Rte. 123).

a. The easiest and perhaps the most beautiful rte. is through the *Val Mastallone*, and over the *Baranca Pass*. There is a good carr.-road from Varallo to Fobello. Thence *Ponte Grande* is reached in 6 hrs.' walking. The path is passable for mules.

**Val Mastallone** is celebrated as one of the most picturesque of the lesser valleys of the Italian Alps.

For the first league from Varallo the valley gradually contracts till the road reaches a remarkable gorge where the river, hemmed in by vertical rocks 150 ft. high, is spanned by a stone arch called the *Ponte della Gula*, too narrow for wheel-vehicles. Another bridge bears the carriage-road. The scenery for the entire distance is of the most exquisite character, the vegetation being even richer than in the *Val Sesia*, and the landscape, owing to the bends of the valley, changing at every moment. About 10 m. from Varallo the valley divides; the rt. branch leads to *Rimella*, and to passes into the valleys of *Strona* and *Anzasca* (Rte. 118 B); the l. grows narrower and steeper, and then suddenly opening, discloses a rich scene of wooded mountain and meadow, and the little village of

**Fobello** (2887 ft.). This valley is the cradle of cooks, who migrate hence all over Europe. Beyond Fobello the upper end of the *Val Mastallone* is open and bare of foliage, and the ascent to the *Baranca Pass* steep. The summit (5795 ft.), on which there is a small oratory and a small mountain *Inn*, is reached in 3 hrs. from Fobello, and has some

open undulating ground to the l., where the track from the Col d'Egua falls in. On the rt. rises the *Pizzo del Moro* (7661 ft.), a beautiful point of view, easily ascended. From the tempting hill on the l. the prospect is not improved. The descent towards the Val Olocchia is abrupt, and the view over the Val Anzasca magnificent. The *Val Olocchia*, a tributary of the Val Anzasca, was one of the most richly-wooded of the southern valleys, but for some years the axe has been at work, and much fine timber has been felled. The path passes through **Bannio**, on a height above the Anza, and Monte Rosa comes into view as the path descends to

**Ponte Grande**, 2 hrs. from the top of the pass. Here the traveller finds fair quarters (Rte. 121).

b. There is another pass, the *Col d'Orchetta*, from the eastern or Rimella branch of *Val Mastallone*. It is rather more direct, but less easy than the Baranca (see Rte. 118 B).

c. Parallel to the Val Mastallone is another valley almost equally beautiful, called the *Val Sermenza*, or *Val Piccola*, to distinguish it from the Val Grande, or main valley of the Sesia. It branches from the latter at the hamlet of *Balmuccia*, 7 m. from Varallo (Rte. 119). The lower part of the Val Sermenza is very narrow and tortuous, particularly near the entrance, where an isolated rock, called the *Torre di Boccioleto*, towers up to a height of 328 ft. A char-road exists at present as far as Fervento. Passing the villages **Boccioleto** and **Fervento**, for which the contracted valley scarcely affords space, in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Balmuccia, the traveller reaches

**Rimasco**. This, the chief village in the valley, is situated just at the fork, where it divides into 2 branches; that on the l. leading through romantic scenery to the German-speaking village of Rima, while the rt. branch leads to the Val Anzasca by Carcoforo.

[From Rima there are 3 passes leading to Alagna, of which the 2 northernmost are the *Col de Piglino* (7760 ft.) and the *Col de Moud* (7622 ft.). The preferable one is the *Bocchetta Moanda* (7937 ft.), commanding in the descent beautiful views of Monte Rosa, the view from the *Tagliaferro* (9725 ft.), accessible in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the col, being still finer. Each pass takes  $4\frac{1}{2}$ –5 hrs. There is another track, the *Colle del Piccolo Altare* or *das kleine Thürle* (8629 ft.), mounting steeply to the westward, by which a point on the ridge just E. of the Turlo Pass is gained (see Rte. 123).]

Above Rimasco the rt.-hand valley becomes more wild and open, and in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. the track reaches the last village,

**Carcoforo**. Hence the traveller has the choice of 2 rtes. to the Val Anzasca; but even if bound for the head of that valley he will do better to take the Col d'Egua, leading to Ponte Grande, so as to enjoy the glorious walk from that village to Macugnaga.

The *Col d'Egua* (7334 ft.) is reached in 2 hrs. from Carcoforo by a rather steep and continuous ascent. The summit, when clear, commands a very grand view, similar to that from Col de Campello (Rte. 118 B). From the top there is a rapid descent over rough ground to the undulating ridge which forms the summit of the Baranca Pass above described. The track, which is ill-marked, joins that from Fobello close to the small oratory. The descent to Bannio and Ponte Grande has been already described. Time from Carcoforo to Ponte Grande,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

d. Travellers pressed for time, and wishing to reach Macugnaga in one long day from Varallo, may take a pass, which diverges from that last described, at the village of Carcoforo, about the same height as, but more interesting than, that of the Turlo (see Rte. 123). The ascent from Carcoforo is very steep; and it



takes more than 3 hrs. to reach the summit of the *Bocchetta di Carcoforo* or *Colle della Bottiglia* (8367 ft.). This commands a magnificent view of Monte Rosa and the Saasgrat. On the other side there is a faintly marked track along a steep slope until an abandoned mine (gold?) is reached. Below this the path descends into the E. head of the *Val Quarazza*, down which runs the path from the Turlo. The guides usually descend to Borca, but this is unnecessary, as there is a shorter track to Macugnaga by the S. side of the Anza. Time from Balmuccia, 10 hrs.' steady walking, exclusive of halts.

The trout-fishing is reported to be very good in the valleys of Sermenza and Mastallone. In both the beauty of the scenery is greatly increased by the brilliant aqua-marine green of the water and the abundant woods.

### ROUTE 123.

MACUGNAGA TO GRESSONEY, BY  
THE TURLO PASS AND COL  
D'OLEN, OR COL DE VAL DOBBIA.

The most direct, but least interesting rte. for travellers making the tour of Monte Rosa is to proceed from Macugnaga to Alagna by the **Turlo** (Germ. *das Thürle*) **Pass**. It presents no difficulty to the practised pedestrian, but the way may be easily lost in bad weather. The regular track commences at Borca, but some time is saved by crossing the Anza below Macugnaga and taking a shorter path. The lower part of the *Val Quarazza* is pleasing and the ascent gentle. After ascending for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. the traveller finds himself at the base of a steep rocky range which encircles the head of the valley. The slopes, which occur in the intervals between the out-cropping walls of bare rock, are covered with rhodo-

dendron and other stunted Alpine shrubs. It is most prudent to keep to the track, which is ill-marked, but in descending on this side the mountaineer will make short work of these slopes. Towards the summit there is a long and steep bed of snow, tiresome enough to mount, but easy in the descent. The actual summit of the pass (8977 ft.) is marked by a cross, and is a mere sharp ridge of rock forming the prolongation of a great spur which extends from the Signal Kuppe between the valleys of Anzasca and Sesia. A little S.E. of the cross are some rocks which command an extensive view towards the Lago Maggiore and the mountains beyond it, but the higher summits of Monte Rosa are not visible. It will take  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to reach the top of the pass from Macugnaga. On the S.W. side the track, when not covered with snow, is better marked. It winds round the N. side of a hollow filled with snow, and continues for some time nearly due S., in places over scattered débris, where it is easily lost. It then bears away to the westward until it reaches the *Faller* chalets, beyond which is the final descent into the deep and narrow Val Sesia, which is reached at a very beautiful point, by a waterfall and a bridge over the Sesia. Thence nearly an hr.'s walk to Alagna, through romantic scenery, by a winding path, which for some little distance passes a chaos of enormous mossy rocks. 8 hrs., exclusive of stoppages, should be allowed for the pass, but it may be accomplished in 6 hrs.

**Alagna** (3908 ft.), though in the immediate neighbourhood of magnificent scenery, is so shut in by mountains that it does not command any view of the peaks of Monte Rosa. This village has of late years become a favourite resort of Italian society, and the accommodation is excellent.

Visitors to Alagna should walk up the valley to the foot of the Turlo

Pass, and they may extend the excursion to the *Pile Alp* and the *Val de Bors*. For the first hr. the track crosses and recrosses the Sesia, passing, about 2 m. from Alagna, the abandoned gold-mine of *Kries*. Beyond this a wayside oratory is passed close to the bridge over which the ascent to the Turlo commences. The path to the Pile Alp mounts the opposite side by a steep staircase of rock on the slope of the *Stoffelhorn*, which is the mountain that shuts out from Alagna the view of Monte Rosa. After passing a cluster of poor chalets, the traveller reaches in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Alagna a point which commands an admirable view of the S.E. portion of Monte Rosa.

On the l. is seen one of the peaks (but not the highest point) of the Vincent Pyramide, next, in the background, the Schwarzhorn and Ludwigshöhe, then the Parrot Spitze, and lastly the grand mass of the *Signal Kuppe*. The latter peak (14,965 ft. in height) was ascended as early as 1842 by the late M. Gnifetti, *curé* of Alagna. Those who desire a nearer view of these grand peaks will be well rewarded if they push on from the Pile Alp to the ridge N. of the valley, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. farther. At the head of the Val de Bors is a fine waterfall fed by the snows of Monte Rosa, and descending from a great height. In the same direction is the

*Colle delle Pisse* (10,335 ft.), on the ridge which runs S. from the Vincent Pyramide (13,829 ft.). The pass is easy on the other side, where a gold-mine was formerly worked.

The *Vincenthütte*, a ruined shelter at the top, was built by the miners, and on the slopes below it are remains of a mule-path, which was carried to within 700 ft. of the col.

By this a mountaineer may reach the Val de Lys, either joining the path from the Col d'Olen, near the Gabiet See, or descending by the E. side of the Lys Glacier. It is also possible to reach the *Inn* on the Col

d'Olen from the head of the Val de Bors.

The Val Sesia terminates in the Piode and Vigne Glaciers, which stretch down from the peaks of Monte Rosa, and there are several passes out of the valley from these ice-fields. The two first-mentioned are formidable, except to trained mountaineers.

*Colle delle Loccie*, to Macugnaga, mentioned in Rte. 121. Another to the Riffel, the highest in the Alps, is called the

*Sesia Joch*, and was first accomplished by Messrs. George and Moore in 1862. They started from a chalet opposite the Pine Alp, and in 13 hrs. climbed to a gap (14,515 ft.) close to the Parrot Spitze, but by so steep a wall that in places they could see nothing below them but the glacier. The Riffel was reached in 18 hrs. The pass is a very severe one, but under favourable circumstances does not seem to be exceptionally dangerous taken from this side.

A long but interesting ascent from Alagna is that of the

*Corno Bianco* (10,893 ft.) the highest point in the ranges S. of Monte Rosa. It lies between Alagna and Gressoney, and can be climbed on the S. side, from either place, without serious difficulty.

**Alagna** is the meeting-place of several rte.s., for a description of the Alpine portions of which, see vol. ii. of Mr. Conway's *Pennine Guide*. That from Varallo by the Val Sesia has been described in Rte. 119. The *Col de Moud* and *Bocchetta Moanda*, both lead to Rima in the W. branch of the Val Sermenza. The first-named is the easier of the two, leading to Rima in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.— $2\frac{3}{4}$  up,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  down. 2 hrs. farther is Rimasco (Rte. 122).

The *Bocchetta Moanda*,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  hrs. up,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  down, commands finer views, and is one of the most beautiful of the minor passes in this district. The ascent of the *Tagliaferro* (9725 ft.) is easily made from the col in



1½ hr. It commands a wide panorama to the E., and a noble view of all the peaks of Monte Rosa.

The two most frequented passes from Val Sesia to the Val de Lys are the *Col d'Olen*, commencing at Alagna, and the *Col de Val Dobbia*, starting from Riva, 1½ m. below Alagna. The first is a beautiful and grand pass, by far the more interesting, and should always be preferred now that an *Inn* has been opened on the top.

a. The ascent to the *Col d'Olen* begins immediately above the village, and occupies 4½ hrs.; for the last hour the path is steep.

The rte. passes through beautiful meadows in the Val d'Olen, and ascends a wooded steep to the green alp, which is traversed for some time, to the stony slopes leading up to the Col (9420 ft.). Close to it an *Inn* with 30 beds has been opened by Guglielmina, the landlord of the Monte Rosa at Alagna. It is excellently kept. From the house there is a noble view eastward over Lago Maggiore. From the pass, or better from the *Gemshorn*, ½ hr. above it, the head of the Lysthal, and the Lys Glacier, stretching down in magnificent branches from the Lyskamm, with the peaks of Monte Rosa, are well seen. The glacier view is of course inferior to that from the Riffel, and the outline of the Monte Rosa range from this side is comparatively tame, but this is compensated for by the majestic expanse of plain and Alps, extending from the Monte Viso to the Adamello group, brought before the traveller's eyes.

[The *Inn* is an excellent starting-point for mountaineers, who can easily reach the crest of the chain at the *Lysjoch* in 5 hrs., and the Riffel *Inn* in 10. More adventurous climbers may gain in the day any of the peaks (except the Nord End) of Monte Rosa. The Höchste Spitze is climbed by the steep rocks of its S. face, which are accessible in several places. The other summits present

snow or ice slopes. The safest of all the ways up the Lyskamm is up the rocks of the S.W. ridge. Only 2 hrs. below the *Lysjoch*, on some rocks amidst the ice, a double club hut, the Capanna Gnifetti, has been constructed by the Italian Club, and another is being built on the summit of the *Signal Kuppe* (14,965 ft.).

To the S. of the *Col d'Olen* are grim dark mountains, with beds of ice and snow, and towards the Lys valley green slopes, from which a ridge rises midway in the course of the descent. A stranger may be puzzled on which side to pass it, as there is little track. He will find a way on either side, but the proper course is to the rt. Pleasant pasturages lead down to the Lys valley, near the village of Orsia. Hence it is ¼ hr.'s walk to **Gressoney La Trinité**, (5338 ft.) (3 hrs. from the col), whence it is 1½ hr. further to **St. Jean**. Close to the road is a picturesque spot on the river. The water has hollowed itself a very deep channel across which a mass of rock has fallen, forming a natural bridge, which leads to the chapel and some adjacent houses. [If the traveller intends to cross the Bettaforca (see Rte. 125) he may take a track to the rt. at Orsia, at once commencing the ascent of the second pass, but it is a fatiguing day's walk to reach the head of the Val d'Ayas from Alagna.]

b. The route to the *Col de Val Dobbia* starts from Riva (Rte. 119), passes *Janzo* (small clean *Inn*) and *Sant' Antonio*, and then ascends above the ravine of the Vogna by a long and steep path, and over Alpine pastures, but offers no object of particular interest.

The distance from Riva to the col, which is 8434 ft. above the sea, requires 4 hrs. On the summit there is a *Hospice*—a stone house of 2 stories with 4 beds for travellers, which is the successor of a hovel which existed here in De Saussure's time. It was built at the expense of the

Canon Sottile, of Rossa, in Val Sesia, and is inhabited throughout the year by 2 men who attend to travellers and their wants. The view from the col is comparatively uninteresting, as Monte Rosa is concealed from the traveller. The descent to Gressoney may be easily made in 2 hrs.

**Gressoney** (St. Jean) (4544 ft.). The Queen of Italy has several times spent part of the summer here in the villa of M. de Peccoz. There are no first-class guides here, but several men are well acquainted with the neighbouring ranges.

Gressoney is properly the name of the commune which includes all the upper part of the *Val de Lys*, or *Lysthal*. There are many hamlets scattered along the course of the stream for a distance of about 8 m. The principal one is that of **St. Jean**, (901 Inhab.). Its situation is charming. It lies in a broad level valley open to the S., elsewhere enclosed by broken and wooded hill-sides, overlooked on the N. by the shining crest of the Lyskamm. The beauty of the scenery, and the comfortable quarters, combine to make this one of the most desirable stopping-places on the Italian side of Monte Rosa; but for those who desire a close acquaintance with the great mountain, the distance of St. Jean from the head of the valley (fully 3 hrs.' walk to the foot of the glacier) is a serious drawback. The best guide to the valley is Signori V. Sella and D. Vallino's beautifully illustrated monograph, *Monte Rosa e Gressoney* (1890).

In the communes at the head of the Piedmontese valleys of Monte Rosa the German language is spoken; in the Val Sesia, at Alagna, in the Val Anzasca above Pestarena, and in the Val de Lys at Gressoney, which is the most considerable of the German communes and the most ancient (see Rte. 120 *ad fin.*). The people of these communities emigrated from the Upper Valais, mainly in the 13th cent., and are as distinct in their

manners as in their language from their neighbours lower down the valleys, with whom they hold little intercourse: they encourage a pride of birth and birthplace which maintains the separation. At Gressoney this is perhaps more strongly exemplified than in any other district. The education and attainments of the inhabitants are of a higher order than is usually found in such a class, especially among mountains. Many of their young men have distinguished themselves when they have gone abroad in the world. They have risen to be merchants and bankers, and many from among them have become eminent for learning and science, and reflected honour on the little community located in this Alpine solitude. Among these was **Herr Zumstein**, better known in the Val Sesia as M. Delapierre, inspector of the forests of the Val Sesia, who long since explored the flanks and ascended one of the summits of Monte Rosa, and gave great assistance to Colonel von Welden in preparing his work (1824) on the topography of Monte Rosa.

Irrespective of the passes which lead from Gressoney to the E.—already described—and those leading westward (described in Rte. 125), there are many interesting excursions to be made, and travellers do unwisely who merely hurry through, without seeing as much of the neighbouring mountains as weather and strength will permit. The most interesting excursion in fine weather is that to the

*Lys Glacier*. There is a good paved mule-path as far as **Noversch**, where Herr Zumstein resided. Beyond this (about 1½ hr. from St. Jean) is the large hamlet of **Gressoney la Trinité** (197 Inhab.). Next is **Orsina**, whence the path to the Col d'Olen ascends on the rt., and that to the Bettaforca on the l. (see Rte. 125). Beyond the last hamlet, at a spot called Stafel, is a large house belonging to Baron Louis de Peccoz, a native of this valley, who, after



having acquired a fortune and title in Germany, returned to his birth-place, and here indulged in the passion for chamois-hunting. He had several chalets on the neighbouring mountains, one at Salza close to the E. bank of the Lys Glacier, and a house at St. Jean, where he kept a collection of trophies of the chase, including some unusually fine bouquetins' heads. The *Cortlis* chalet sheltered early explorers of the district, but since the erection of the *Inn* on the Col d'Olen, is less used for glacier expeditions, while the new Sella Club hut, 3 hrs. above it, is the best starting-point for expeditions in the ranges to the W., and may form the object of a day's excursion from Gressoney, as it is amidst very fine glacier scenery. The Lys Glacier is more easily approached on the E. than the W. side, where the moraine is extremely high and steep. It is well worth while to ascend on the E. by the lateral moraine until the less crevassed part is reached, and then from the base of the Hohes Licht to advance over the glacier towards the foot of the *Nase*, a conspicuous promontory forming the S. buttress of the Lyskamm, and standing out in the midst of the glacier, which falls in magnificent ice-cascades on either side of it. Practised mountaineers may cross the glacier, and descend the steep moraine on the W. side: not less than 10 hrs. should be allowed for the excursion. On the E. side of the glacier, and below the Vincent-Pyramide, is the *Hohes Licht*, a rounded prominence, where at one time a gold-mine was worked at more than 10,800 ft. above the sea. A hut was constructed near the mine, which served Zumstein and other explorers of Monte Rosa as a sleeping-place. Another hut called *Vincenthütte* was subsequently built about 600 ft. lower (10,335 ft.) on the ridge descending from the Vincent-Pyramide, close to the summit of the *Colle delle Pisse*. The brothers Schlagintweit remained there for 14 days in 1851 engaged in

scientific observations. One of the finest panoramic views in the neighbourhood of Gressoney is that from the summit of

The **Grauhaupt** (10,876 ft. in height), rising precipitously on the W. side of the Val de Lys.

'No one should, if possible, leave Gressoney without ascending it, if the weather be favourable. It is a difficult excursion for ladies, at least to the very top. The view from the summit is a superb panorama. After ascending the Val de Lys for 35 min., a steep path by the side of a waterfall on the l. leads up to a cluster of chalets and the luxuriant Loigen pasturages. Thence the ascent is easier, over the side of the hill, rich with rhododendrons and mosses, till vegetation disappears, and the path mounts by the side of a stream to the *Col de Pinta* or *Pinter Joch* (9121 ft.), 3 hrs. from Gressoney, a wild and desolate depression in the ridge, strewn with large rocks. Here the mule-path ends. Hence the whole range from the Grand Combin to the Grand Paradis, S. of the Val d'Aosta, is seen, Mont Blanc rearing its huge amphitheatre of ice high above its neighbours. Beyond this the way—not path, for there is none—lies over loose shingle and shale; several large rocks have to be either circumvented or climbed, and the incline, just beyond the col, is very steep: afterwards it lies over firmer stones, the footing on which is more secure; 5 or 10 min. before reaching the summit there is a stiff climb of 20 or 30 ft. of steep rock, and in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the pass the top is reached. A perfect circle of mountains here rewards the trouble of the ascent; Monte Rosa, the Lyskamm, and the majestic Matterhorn appear quite close; Mont Blanc, farther away to the W., easily proves himself to be the 'Monarch of Mountains,' at least in height. The Grivola, the Grand Paradis, and all the ranges N. of Turin, are in the middle distance;

whilst the Maritime Alps which bound the Riviera from Nice to Genoa, with Monte Viso conspicuously great on the one side, and the Trentino Alps on the other, form a splendid background to this glorious panorama.

'The time, exclusive of stoppages was :—Ascent 5 hrs., descent  $3\frac{1}{4}$ .'

Those who do not feel confident of their strength will do better to attempt the easier summit of the *Pointe de la Combetta* (7842 ft.), S. of the *Col de la Ranzola* (Rte. 125). Another summit, less difficult than the *Grauhaupt*, but more laborious than the *Combetta* is the

*Telchenhorn* (9298 ft.), whose top is seen exactly in the back-ground of the valley from the bridge of Gressoney. It may be reached in 3 hrs. from the Cortlis chalet, which is 2 hrs. from La Trinité.

It would be possible to combine the ascent of the *Telchenhorn* with an excursion on the *Lys Glacier* in one long day's walk, or it may be taken on the way to the *Col d'Ölen*.

The *Bec de Prudière* (10,073 ft.), commands, probably, the most complete and beautiful panorama of any of the peaks near Gressoney. It is reached through a glen opening into the *Lysthal* about an hour below La Trinité. It is possible to descend directly to Issime.

From Gressoney it is a walk of about 18 m. (6 hrs.) to descend the *Val de Lys*, or *Vallesa* as the Italian portion of the valley is called, to Pont St. Martin in the *Val d'Aosta*, passing many villages and hamlets, of which the principal are *Gaby*, *Issime*, *Fontainemore*, and *Lillianes*, through wild and imposing rock scenery, combined with the richest vegetation in a manner characteristic of the *Val d'Aosta* and its lateral valleys. At **Issime**, half-way, lunch may be had at the village Inn. The ch. contains some frescoes. Outside it, on the village green, the magistrate's chair is still preserved. About Trina the valley is strewn with huge rolled blocks or boulders.

As you approach the *Ponte della Trinità* the scene becomes sterner, the precipices more shattered, with long shoots of *débris* and detached rocks. Below Issime an unbroken and beautiful wood of sweet chestnut stretches across the valley. The final descent to Pont St. Martin is full of Italian loveliness. The *Vallesa* loses in interest to those who *ascend* it.

**Pont St. Martin**, a station on the railway from Ivrea to Aosta (Rte. 134).

The glacier passes of the *Lysjoch* (14,033 ft.), the *Felikjoch* (13,347 ft.), and the *Schwarzthor* (12,274 ft.), to the *Riffel* and *Zermatt*, are noticed in Rte. 127. For passes to the Biellese, see next Rte. For passes to the *Val d'Ayas*, see Rte. 125.

## ROUTE 124.

BIELLA TO GRESSONEY ST. JEAN,  
BY OROPA OR VAL ANDORNO.

**Biella**, connected by a branch line from Santhia with the Turin-Milan railroad, may be reached in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Turin, or 4 hrs. from Milan (see HANDBOOK FOR ITALY). It is a prosperous Italian country town (14,844 Inhab.), situated at the foot of the Alps, the first spurs of which rise above it in richly-wooded and thickly-populated slopes. It is divided into an upper and lower town. The streets are arcaded. There are few edifices of interest to the traveller. The cathedral is of the 15th cent.; the baptistery is older. The Church of San Sebastiano contains pictures ascribed to B. Luini and G. Ferrari, but offers little remarkable to detain the traveller. Its environs are celebrated in N. Italy for their natural beauty and salubrity, which have caused them to be studded with villas, and also for their iron manufactories. Three frequented pilgrimage-shrines lie within a short drive of the city ;



there are also several hydropathic establishments. Two of the shrines lie on the paths which lead through the hills to the Val de Lys, and are described in their place. The third, the 17th cent. *Sanuario di Graglia* (2664 ft.), lies more to the W., and is reached from the town in under 2 hrs. by a pleasant road. The sanctuary consists of a ch., and a building in which visitors are lodged gratuitously for 9 days. There is also a good Hydro-pathic Hôtel-Pension frequented by Piedmontese. It commands a noble view of the plain and the S.W. Alps. Paths connect it directly with Ivrea (2½ hrs.), and the Sanctuary of Oropa (3 hrs.).

[The traveller proceeding towards the Italian lakes may drive to **Borgo Sesia** (20 m.) and Varallo or Orta by a charming country road, passing through many country towns, and descending Val Strona to the Sesia.

The road to **Ivrea** (4 hrs.) traverses the vast moraine (La Serra) of the ancient glacier of Val d'Aosta. Pedestrians will prefer to drive to Graglia, and walk thence to Ivrea.]

#### a. Gressoney by Oropa.

It is a beautiful drive of 2½ hrs. (carriage 10 fr.) from Biella to the Sanctuary of *Oropa*. The road ascends constantly between high hedgerows, past numerous villages, and through delicious chestnut forests, commanding a noble prospect over the plain and the surrounding hills.

About 3 m. from Biella, at *Cossilla*, is a hydropathic establishment. English visitors would mostly prefer the situation of the large establishment, 15 min. short of the Sanctuary, well kept (pension 12 fr. a day), and beautifully situated at a height of 3600 ft.

The ancient *Sanctuary of Oropa* (3872 ft.) is a most imposing pile of buildings ranged round two quadrangles. The lower quadrangle, open to the S. and approached by an avenue, is divided from the second

by a range of buildings raised on an open arcade. The church, which contains the black female figure venerated as a representation of the Virgin by St. Luke, is small. The visitor will remark the usual crowd of votive tablets, and will, perhaps, note with surprise the use of photography in these offerings. The hospice can lodge 2000 guests, who are received gratuitously for 9 days, but must obtain their food at one of the excellent restaurants in the outer court. The pilgrims are reckoned at from 70,000 to 80,000 annually, and as the spot is 'sanissimo' as well as 'santissimo,' it may be believed that most of them derive benefit from their stay. The rooms provided are clean, and decently furnished.

To the W. of the Ospizio is a series of chapels, closely resembling those at Varallo, containing life-size figures representing incidents in the history of the Virgin. The Marriage at Cana is noteworthy.

[There are easy paths to the rival Sanctuaries of Graglia (2½ hrs.) and San Giovanni in Val Andorno (2½ hrs.). The latter crosses a low pass.]

The route from the Hospice to Val de Lys by the *Col della Croce Grande* or *della Barma* is easy, but very puzzling to find, and travellers will do well to hire a guide to the top. At an alp ½ hr. from Oropa, the track turns up a steep hillside. Leaving to the rt. a higher alp and the apparent pass, the Alpe della Strada is reached. The path here bends eastwards, and reaches a false col, near which several crosses mark the spot where a 'tourmente' overtook some unfortunate peasants. 15 min. further a chapel marks the crest (2½ hrs.). The pass (7418 ft.) commands little distant view, but an ascent of 15 min. to the rocky point E. of it is rewarded by a panorama including the Monte Rosa chain, the Matterhorn, Mont Blanc, the Grandes Jorasses, the Cogne Alps, and Monte Viso. The *Mont Mars* (8531 ft.) W. of the pass, commands a more complete

panorama, but is somewhat distant and rugged.

The descent into the Val de Lys is long. The path is in places a carefully-made staircase among huge blocks. Several lakes are passed. Below the last, near the Alp Vargno, the traveller is tempted by an excellent track running along the shady side of the valley; if bound for Gressoney he must be careful to leave it when above the opening of the valley it trends to the W. It is easy at this point to join the true path on the rt. bank of the torrent, and by bearing constantly to the rt. to reach the route of Val de Lys at the Ponte di Gramolla  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. below Issime. The final descent into the richly-forested valley is of exquisite beauty. 6 hrs. will suffice a good walker to go from Oropa to Issime (see Rte. 123).

#### b. By Val Andorno.

A good carriage-road extends from Biella to Piedicavallo, a drive of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. The inhabitants of Val Andorno emigrate largely as contractors and master-masons, and often return to build 'palazzi' in their native valley, which has thus been filled with handsome edifices.

**Andorno**,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Biella (1788 ft.), has a well-kept Hydropathic H. and Pension. The scenery is bright and varied. In  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. **Campiglia** is reached, the chief village of the upper valley.

[Here a road branches off to the *Sanctuary of San Giovanni* (3357 ft.) The ascent is through a beech-wood. The situation is charming. Rooms are given gratuitously for 9 days (as at Oropa and Graglia) to visitors, and there are good restaurants. It is a  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hrs.' walk hence to Oropa.]

The scenery becomes more severe as the road approaches the bend of the valley and **Piedicavallo**.

From this place, or the neighbouring village of Montesinaro, the ascent of *Monte Bo* (8386 ft.) may be made in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. It commands a vast and varied panorama of the Alps and

plains, which has been engraved by the Italian Alpine Club.

The traveller proceeding to Val de Lys has the choice of three passes, known as the *Colle della Vecchia* (4577 ft.), *Colle Mologna Grande* (8025 ft.), and *Colle Mologna Piccola* (6874 ft.). The first is the shortest, the *Mologna Piccola* being rather longer—mule paths over both in about 5 hrs. to Gaby, 2 hrs. below Gressoney St. Jean.

The *Colle Mologna Grande* is 2 hrs. longer, but enables the traveller to reach and enjoy the view from the neighbouring *Monte Tre Vescovi* (8206 ft.) It is only a foot-path, and from the col a traverse of 1 hr. leads to a second pass, *Col de Lazzoney*, whence the descent lies past the Alps of Ober and Unterloo. The path reaches the valley at the hamlet of *Lomatta*, 1 hr. below Gressoney St. Jean, which may be reached in about 8 hrs. from Piedicavallo, this being the most direct rte.

From the second pass tracks leading to Val Sesia by the glens of the Vogna or the Artogna, and from the first pass by the Sorba glen, may be taken by a pedestrian.

Travellers in this region should provide themselves with the excellent local guide book *Guida nel Biellese*, published at Biella (2nd edition, 1887).

### ROUTE 125.

GRESSONEY TO CHÂTILLON, BY THE COL DE LA RANZOLA, BY THE BETTAFORCA, OR BY THE BETTLINER PASS.

The three valleys of Sesia, Anzasca, and Lys, described in Rtes. 119, 120, and 123, diverge from Monte Rosa like the spokes of a wheel from the axle, and therefore the shortest passage from one to the other is that nearest to the central mountain. The two valleys which succeed the Val de Lys to the westward—the



valleys of Challant and Tournanche—are nearly parallel to it and to each other, and they all three open out into the Val d'Aosta, which is the main depression parallel to the ridge of the Pennine Alps. The range separating the Val de Lys from the Val Challant may be passed at many points, but the two frequented passes are the Col de la Ranzola and the Bettaforca. The former is by far the easier, and is besides considerably the shorter rte. to Châtillon or Aosta.

*a.* To reach the Col de la Ranzola, it is necessary to ascend the steep forest paths and slopes of the mountain on the side of the valley nearly opposite to the Col de Val Dobbia; it is a rather fatiguing mule-path the whole way to the summit of the ridge which divides the valleys of Lys and Challant.

On emerging from the pine-forest, a grand view of Monte Rosa and the Lyskamm is presented, the beautiful *Val de Lys* lying far below the traveller, with its quiet villages and fertile pasturages. The Lys, like a silver thread, may be traced up to its glaciers. On either side of the valley the vast mountains, belted with forests, offer, at depressions in their ridges, the paths by which the most frequent intercourse takes place with the neighbouring valleys. From a grass-covered peak rising S., and about 700 ft. above the pass, called *Pointe de la Combetta* (7842 ft.), one of the finest panoramic views of Monte Rosa, the Val d'Aosta, and the Val de Lys may be obtained. This point can be reached in 1 hr. from the col, and in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 hrs. from Gressoney.

At the top of the pass (7123 ft.), Monte Rosa is shut out, but in clear weather the traveller is recompensed by a distant view of Mont Blanc. The descent is gradual to the little hamlet of *St. Grat*, then somewhat steep, the latter part of the way along a mountain of serpentine, to Brusson. The *Val Challant* may be traced in its

course to Verrès, where it joins the Val d'Aosta, in which the Doire may be distinctly seen, flashing across like a streak of light, broken by the dark mass of the Castle of Verrès, which stands at the very junction of the two valleys, while under the feet, or not far off, is perched upon the declivity the picturesque Castle of Challant. In 4 hrs. from Gressoney the traveller reaches

**Brusson**, a beautifully situated village (4370 ft.). From here the *Val Challant* may be descended to Verrès in the Val d'Aosta, about 3 hrs.' walk, which will be found very hot by those coming from the highland valleys. The scenery is beautiful, but the inhabitants are afflicted with goitre and cretinism to a painful extent. Above Brusson the valley changes its character and its name, being called *Val d'Ayas* from the name of the chief village. The most direct and agreeable route from Brusson to Châtillon and Aosta is by the

*Col de Jon* or *de Joux* (5374 ft.). To reach it the bridle-path, after crossing some meadows beyond Brusson, winds steeply up through a forest of pines and larches, and by a glade between the trees to one of the most beautiful pasturages in the Alps—the *Col de Jon*, which is a fine greensward, broad and luxuriant. This is not a pass over a depression in a mountain range, such as are common in the Alps, but merely a short cut gained by crossing the shoulder of a mountain, instead of winding round its base. The *Mont Zerbion* (8928 ft.) is the southern extremity of the range separating the Val d'Ayas from the Val Tournanche, and it is over the side of this mountain that the track lies.

On reaching the descent towards the Val d'Aosta, near a little chapel of *St. Grat*, that charming valley is seen in all its length, from Châtillon to Mont Blanc, the summit of which only is seen on the rt. peering into the Val d'Aosta, over several lines of mountains. The prospect of the Val

d'Aosta itself is of extraordinary beauty; its innumerable meadows, margined by thick woods, which creep up the water-channelled dells at the foot of the mountains—the shadowy forms of the Cogne Alps—the Castle of *Ussel* on its rock, of *Fénis* overlooking its sea of wood, with numerous white ch. towers and spires—Aosta and its plain, and the winding flashes of the Doire undulating or sweeping across the vale—combine to form a view which will long haunt the memory. A series of steep zigzags down a water-worn channel brings the traveller to the forests of chestnut and walnut, for which the Val d'Aosta is celebrated. These offer to him their shade, and soon the vines add their luxuriant foliage to the cool and refreshing path which leads past the mineral spring to the village and Baths of St. Vincent ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Brusson). The valley of Aosta is entered at one of its finest points near

**St. Vincent** (Rte. 134), a station on the rly.  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. from

**Châtillon** (Rte. 134). Rly. to Aosta.

N. of the Grauhaupt are the following peaks and passes between the valleys of Gressoney and Ayas:—Rothhorn, *Rothhorn Pass*, Bettahorn, *Bettaforca Pass*, Bettlinerhorn, *Bettliner Pass*. Of these passes

b. The *Bettaforca* is the easiest between the upper end of the Val de Lys and the Val d'Ayas. It is not in itself very interesting, and unless taken on the way between Gressoney and Zermatt, or unless the traveller wishes to explore the glaciers at the head of the Val d'Ayas, there is little to recommend it. It is quite practicable for mules. A good track leads from Gressoney La Trinité up the valley for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr., then turns to the l. and ascends rapidly for 1 hr. to the oratory of Santa Anna, with a beautiful view of the Lyskamm and its glaciers: another good hour of gentle ascent brings the traveller to the col (8780 ft.), on which is a

wooden cross. On the descent the Forca chalets and the village of **Resy** are passed. The very poor village of **San Giacomo d'Ayas** is next reached,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. above which, at a place called **Fiéry**, is an *Inn*, with fair accommodation, 7 hrs. from Gressoney.

The *Upper Bettliner Pass* (10,358 ft.), N. of the Bettaforca, crosses the mountains close to the glaciers, and is a finer but longer passage. From the Cortlis chalet at the head of the Lysthal a mule-path leads in 3 hrs. to the col. On the descent the track passes between the Klein Verra Glacier on the rt. and the *Monte Rosso* l., and then down the Verra glen to the *Inn* at Fiéry. From S. Giacomo the path down the Val d'Ayas follows the Evençon stream past San Giacomo d'Ayas to *Ayas*, and a little further joins the track from Brusson over the Col de Jon. Distance—about 7 hrs. from Gressoney to San Giacomo;  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from San Giacomo to Brusson. The *Lower Bettliner Pass* (9872 ft.), is between the Monte Rosso and the Bettaforca, being practically a variation of the latter. The upper pass is crossed by any one starting from Fiéry who wishes to gain the Sella Club hut at the foot of the Zwillinge.

From Fiéry the traveller may cross to Val Tournanche by 2 passes just S. of the Grand Tournalin, the *Col de Nana*, and the *Col du Tournalin*, the latter of which may be combined with an ascent of the peak (Rte. 128).

From the head of the Val d'Ayas is the pass of the *Cimes Blanches* (Rte. 128), either across the mountain to Breuil, or to Zermatt by the St. Théodule, the paths diverging beyond the chalets of *Ventina*. Time to Breuil about 5 hrs.—to Zermatt about 9.

The mountaineer has a choice of two fine passes to Zermatt, the *Schwarzthor* and *Felikjoch* (Rte. 127).



## ROUTE 126.

## VISP TO ZERMATT—RAILWAY.

Rly. ( $21\frac{3}{4}$  m.) opened to St. Niklaus in 1890, and to Zermatt in 1891. In the steeper portions, the cogwheel system is adopted. Several trs. daily in 28 min. to Stalden, 1 hr. 10 min. to St. Niklaus and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to Zermatt; in correspondence with those to and from Brieg and Lausanne. Fares, 2nd class 16 fr., 3rd class 10 fr.; 5 stations and 3 halting-places.

The concourse of travellers to the valleys round Monte Rosa<sup>1</sup> is every year increasing, and the accommodation has kept pace with the influx of strangers. Zermatt is now accessible by rail from Visp, but there is no second way out except by glacier passes, which every one is not hardy enough to attempt. The St. Théodule, however, is in no way difficult, and is passable from July to the middle of October.

A grand Alpine valley leads to Zermatt, and the interest is kept up by occasional glimpses of the peaks and glaciers which enclose it. This valley suffered terribly from the earthquake in 1855; precipices were shaken down, chalets overwhelmed, and the road, which had just been made, destroyed in many places.

The rly., on leaving Visp, runs, below the walls and old château of Visp, along the rt. bank of the Visp, and enters a hot and sandy valley, where the hills are covered with vines and rich in wild flowers, the rosy-fruited barberry, and other bushes. In front is seen the snowy *Balfrin* (12,501 ft.), the extreme N. peak of the Saasgrat, and beyond Stalden the *Bruneeggorn* (12,619 ft.), a peak N. of the Weisshorn, often mistaken for that mountain.

It crosses to the l. bank of the Visp near the picturesque, and now ancient

**Neubrücke**, where the trout which rush down to the Rhone when the glaciers melt are caught in quantities.

A very steep ascent along the mountain side, with a precipice on the left hand, leads to the ( $4\frac{3}{4}$  m.) *Stalden Stat.*, at the foot of the hill on which rises the village (409 Inhab.) of

**Stalden** (2753 ft.), where those bound for Saas leave the train. This village is prettily situated on the hill-side, at the junction of the Gorn Visp and Saaser Visp. E. of it, across the mountains, the Bistenen Pass leads to the Hospice on the Simplon (Rte. 56). The line continues to ascend to the plateau above the village, and passes through several tunnels, on issuing from one of which it crosses the *Viaduct of Mühlibach*, the most remarkable work of art on the line, and then runs on a level to the hamlet of **Kalpatran** (halting-place). It next crosses to the rt. bank of the stream, and passes through a gorge, below the old mule-path, and a little above the stream, crossing it once more, and making another steep ascent before entering

10 m. **St. Niklaus Stat.**, above the ch. (3819 ft.), a good resting place half-way to Zermatt. This village 809 (Inhab.) was much injured by the earthquake in 1855; it is the chief place in the valley, charmingly situated amidst wild Alpine scenery, tempered with forests and orchards in the foreground. Its ch. tower, with shining spire, is a conspicuous land-mark.

[The village of **Grächen**, high up on the E. side of the valley, half-way between Stalden and St. Niklaus, was the birthplace of Thomas Platter (1499-1582), a prominent person among the Swiss Humanists, who has left a most interesting autobiography describing his native valley in the early 16th cent. His house is still shown, and may form the object of a stroll from St. Niklaus.]

<sup>1</sup> For the history of the rise of Zermatt as a mountaineering centre and its local history since 1280, see Part ii of Mr. Coolidge's work, *Swiss Travel and Swiss Guide-Books* (1889).

[W. is the *Augstbord Pass* (Rte. 129) to Zmeiden in the Turtmann Thal, and the ascent, as far as the *Jungen Chapel*, is a charming excursion from St. Niklaus. It is very steep, but can be made in 2 hrs.' riding; the object being the magnificent view of the Mischabel peaks, and of the Weisshorn, and the long vista of the Zermatt valley, terminated by the Lyskamm and Breithorn.]

At St. Niklaus the valley expands, rising E. in green broken ground to the heights under the Balfrin, but beyond the village it again contracts and is shut in on the W. by precipices. In these there are dark steep openings through which rush waterfalls. Meadow and forest are traversed, and soon the snows of the Breithorn and Little Matterhorn are seen at the end of the valley. The train halts for a minute at *Herbrigen*, half-way to Randa, where the traveller obtains a peep of the *Brunegg*horn and *Weiss*horn, and crosses the stream in order to attain

15 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Randa Stat.** (4754 ft.), a village of 229 Inhab., situated among meadows, and opposite a gap in the precipice walling in the valley on the W., through which the *Bies Glacier* descends from the *Weiss*horn. The view of this glacier and the *Brunegg*horn is fine. Its cliffs projected against the sky, overhang an ice-fall so steep that it seems marvellous they can be held in position by the force of cohesion. At times, indeed, aided by warm winds, gravity has overcome this resistance, and precipitated masses into the valley. Such a catastrophe occurred in 1637, and again in 1819, Dec. 27, when a considerable portion of the glacier suddenly detached itself, and fell a height of 1500 ft. It passed clear of the village of Randa, but the mere draught of air produced by a fall from such an elevation overthrew 118 houses, scattering the timbers of which they were built like straws to the distance of a mile, and hurling rocks many fathoms uphill.

From Randa Saas may be gained by the splendid and not difficult *Ried Pass* (Rte. 121f). A passage to the Turtmannthal over the head of the Bies glacier by the *Biesjoch* (11,644 ft. above the sea), S.W. of the *Brunegg*horn, can be made in 10 hrs. The ascent by the rocks which overhang the N. bank of the Bies Glacier is difficult. The descent of the Turtmann Glacier is easy, though sometimes there is an ice-wall just below the col. From the pass, the *Brunegg*horn (12,619 ft.) can be easily ascended in 1 hr., and deserves to be more visited, as the view is most superb.

E. of Randa is the Festi Glacier, which comes down from the *Dom*, the highest point of the Mischabelhörner, 14,942 ft. above the sea. This splendid peak, rising 10,000 ft. above Randa, was first ascended in 1858 by the Rev. J. Llewellyn Davies. It is not a difficult expedition, but it is necessary to spend a night in the new Club hut on the Festi rocks. The panorama is one of the finest in the Alps. Its brother peak, the *Täsch*horn (14,758 ft.) is, from the W., a rather harder climb, also first made in 1862 by Mr. Davies, but it is necessary to bivouac under an overhanging rock. Both these peaks have been climbed also by their S. and N. ridges and directly from Saas by hardy mountaineers.

Randa is also the starting-point for the ascent of the *Weiss*horn (14,804 ft.). For this it is necessary to sleep at a new hut 3 hrs. from Randa.

The *Weiss*horn—so named from its glittering garb of snow—one of the most splendid objects in the Alps, seen admirably by travellers descending the upper valley of the Rhone—had been long deemed inaccessible until ascended in 1861 by Prof. Tyndall. It is a pyramid, of which the 3 edges or arêtes descend N., S., and E. The N. fork encloses the head of the *Turtmann Glacier*, the N. and E. the steep *Bies Glacier*, the E. and S. the *Schalliberg Glacier*. It was



from the last that Prof. Tyndall, accompanied by his famous guide, J. Bennen, and by an Oberland guide, named Ulrich Wenger, gained the E. arête by a couloir—conspicuous in the view from the Riffel—but found the crest to consist of a most formidable line of towers and crags, which had either to be climbed over or circumvented. From the Schalliberg hut the top has since been reached in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.; and it has now been found practicable to follow the crest of the arête all the way. In 1871 two ascents were made by the N.E. face and N. arête in 9 hrs., from a bivouac on the *Kastel*, 3 hrs. above Randa. The peak has also been reached by the S.E. face, the S.W. ridge, and by an excessively difficult and dangerous rte. up the precipitous W. or Zinal face.

Beyond Randa the valley is more level and pastoral. The train calls at

$17\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Täsch**, at the foot of the Täsch Alp and the *Alphubel* and *Allalin* passes (Rte. 121) to Saas and the Mattmark See. From Täsch the line passes to the l. bank of the stream, and ascends, passing broken forest ground, and to the rt. a romantic bridge, on the old mule-path, and then between the ragged pines the traveller obtains his first view of the *Matterhorn*, distinguished from all other peaks by its strange solitary pyramid. The rly. runs high above the stream (opposite the char-road till this also crosses to the l. bank), and passing through a tunnel in the great rock buttress which bars the way, enters the green and glacier-headed basin of Zermatt, and very soon reaches

$21\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Zermatt Stat.**, see next Rte.

## ROUTE 127.

EXCURSIONS, ASCENTS, AND PASSES  
FROM ZERMATT.

**Zermatt** (Piedmontese, *Praborgne*). There is a Post Office, Telegraph

Stat., several lawn tennis grounds, a number of shops with carvings, dried flowers, &c. Herr Imfeld's Relief of the neighbouring ranges is in the H. Zermatt, and deserves a visit. M. Loppé sometimes has a few of his unique paintings of ice-scenery on exhibition during the season. It is said that 12,000 strangers visit the village every year, so that peace and quiet are no longer obtainable there save early or late in the season. This retired village, of 525 Inhab., 5315 ft. above the sea, consisting of about 60 quaint old wooden houses, black with age, with the white *Hotels* towering above them, stands on a little plain at the head of the valley of the Visp, encircled by the most important group of mountains in central Europe.

Mont Blanc can boast of his circle of aiguilles, but Monte Rosa has a far greater number of attendant summits. Only one of these is conspicuous from the village. That one, however, is the unique Matterhorn (French, *Mont Cervin*, German, *Matterhorn*, Ital. *Monte Silvio*), a natural obelisk rising in singular and solitary magnificence 14,705 ft. above the sea, and nearly 5000 ft. above the glacier plateau which forms its pedestal. Seen by day it is a noble object, but by night, 'among the gleaming stars, mysterious, self-luminous, like a beautiful but fearful phantom, folded impenetrably in its spangled robe.'—*Hinchliff*. The Mischabelhörner are also in sight, but are singularly ineffective.

Three glaciers stream down towards the head of the Zermatt valley, and contribute to the torrent which rushes past the village—the *Gorner Glacier* from Monte Rosa, the *Findelen Glacier* from the Strahlhorn on the E., the *Zmutt Glacier*, from the Matterhorn, Dent d'Hérens, and Dent Blanche on the W.

Here the sketcher may find ample employment, and the mineralogist, botanist, and entomologist collect rich harvests. The pine-woods are beautiful—particularly in the Zmutt

valley—and the *flora* is exceptionally rich and varied.

In the ch.-yard of the parish ch. are the graves of Messrs. Hudson and Hadow, and Michel Croz of Chamonix, who lost their lives on the first ascent of the Matterhorn; as well as those of other victims of more recent catastrophes. An English ch. has been built as a memorial to the victims of the Matterhorn.

### A. Excursions.

The *Riffel* and *Gornergrat*, the *Schwarz See* and *Zmutt Gletscher*, the *Hörnli*, the *Mettelhorn*, the *Rothhorn*.

The Excursions from Zermatt are very numerous, and no adequate knowledge of the locality can be gained in less than a week. For those who are pressed for time, and not mountaineers, the *Gorner Grat* and *Hörnli* are two of the best points of view.

a. *Riffelberg* and *Gorner Grat*. (Rly.—partly funicular, partly cog wheel—projected from Zermatt by the *Riffel* to the *Gorner Grat*.) The first excursion from Zermatt is up the *Riffelberg*, and to the *Gorner Grat*, and those who have time but for one expedition usually choose this. From Zermatt to the higher *Inn* on the *Riffelberg* is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. on horses, 2 hrs. good walking. From the *Inn* to the top of the *Gorner Grat*,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.

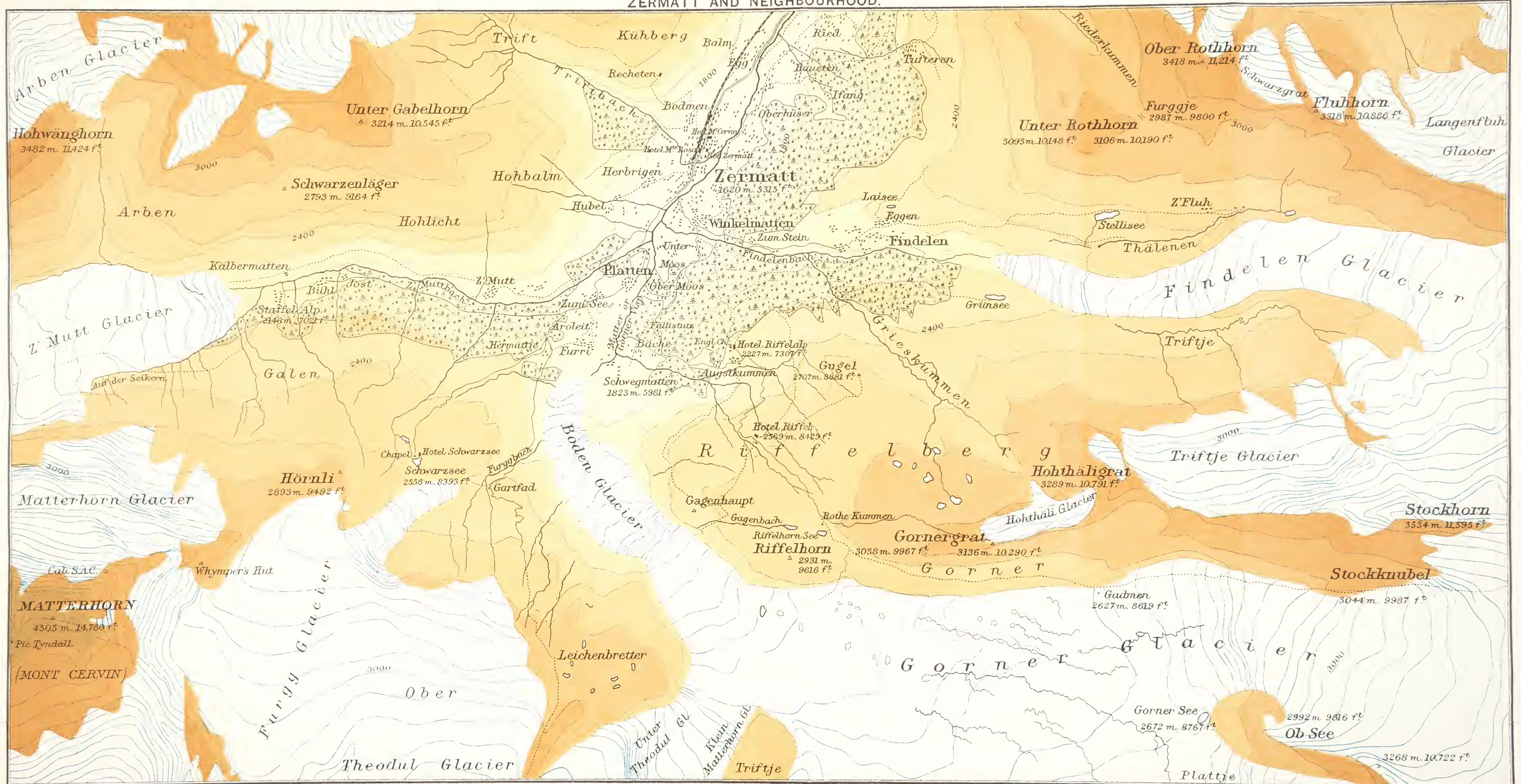
The *Riffelberg* is properly a long rocky ridge extending between the *Gorner Glacier* and the *Findelen Glacier*; but the portion of it near the *Inn*, and overhanging Zermatt, is especially called by that name. The 3 principal summits, rising one higher than the other from W. to E., are called the *Gorner Grat*, the *Hohthäligrat*, and the *Stockhorn*. The *Riffelhorn* is a detached pinnacle of serpentine rising above the *Gorner Glacier*.

The upper *Hotel* on the *Riffelberg*, at an elevation of 8430 ft., is very conspicuous from Zermatt. There is no absolute occasion for a guide to the *Riffelberg* or to the *Gorner Grat*,

but it is possible to miss the path. This goes past the ch. and on the l. bank of the *Visp* for about 10 min., when the stream is crossed. The path turns rt. at the chapel of *Winkelmatten*, crosses the stream from the *Findelen Glacier*, and then some meadows to the foot of the mountain. Here the ascent begins. It is exceedingly steep in places, through a forest—first of larch, then of *Arolla* (*Arve*, *Pinus cembra*). The path then emerges on the open alp. Here is the large *Hotel & Pension Riffel Alp* (7307 ft.), which affords excellent accommodation for a prolonged stay (*Eng. Ch.*). Passing some chalets, the way turns to the rt. across a small stream. The rest of the ascent is by zigzags to the plateau where the much-frequented *Riffel Hotel* (called *Riffelberg* for the sake of distinction) is situated. From this point there is a noble view of the Matterhorn and the *Mischabel*, *Weisshorn*, *Rothhorn*, *Gabelhorn*, and *Dent Blanche*; of the *Zmutt Glacier* to the *Col d'Hérens*, and down the long Zermatt valley to the *Bietschhorn*, one of the *Bernese Oberland* peaks. The top of the *Breithorn* is visible l. of the *Riffelhorn*. Near the hotel is a monument set up in memory of the late Mr. Hinchliff, formerly President of the *Alpine Club*, and one of the early frequenters of the *Riffel*. Leaving the *Hotel*, and ascending S. over a moorland, the traveller soon reaches the edge of a steep descent to the *Gorner Glacier*, and obtains his first view of the splendid snows of *Monte Rosa* and the *Lyskamm* and the rocky face of the *Breithorn*. Here rt. lies the little *Riffel tarn*, and above it the rugged rock of the *Riffelhorn* (9617 ft.), which fair climbers may with caution ascend in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. The path here turns to the l., and continues rising from one swelling wave to another over rougher ground. It is now better to dismount, and send the horses to meet you near the spot known as *Gugel*, but it is possible to ride to the summit.



# ZERMATT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.









The track leads over rocks with snow in the hollows ; vegetation becomes very scanty, and has almost disappeared when the summit of the Gorner Grat is reached, 10,290 ft. above the sea. This is a round knoll, perhaps 50 yds. across, with precipices towards the Gorner Glacier and a steep slope of snow on the N. It commands a splendid view of the Gorner Glacier, and of the ice-fields stretching 12 m. from the Cima di Jazzi to the Matterhorn, and also a complete panorama, nearly 40 m. in circumference, of snowy mountains. The view will naturally be compared to those from the Brévent and the Eggishorn. As a panorama it excels anything at Chamonix, where the snow view is always confined to one side. The peaks that surround the Gorner Glacier are incomparably grander than those above the Aletsch. On the other hand, the Aletsch Glacier itself has in size no rival in the Alps, and no Zermatt mountain emulates the proud and absolute pre-eminence of Mont Blanc. On the whole, however, there is no spot in the Alps so easily attainable which commands so fine a near view of a great snowy chain.

N.B. Travellers are cautioned not to throw stones down the S.W. face of the Gorner Grat, as by doing so they endanger the lives of mountaineers returning from the Gorner Glacier. The *Hohthäligrat* (10,791 ft.), on the E., is the only point which impedes a complete view. It is the continuation of the Riffelberg ridge, and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the Gorner Grat ; but the panorama from it differs little from that already obtained.

Descending from the Gorner Grat, and keeping rather towards the N. by a track not easy to find, in about  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. the eminence called *Gugel* (8882 ft.) is reached, the view from which is remarkable, though it will perhaps appear tame after that from the Gorner Grat. The Bietschhorn on the N. side of the valley of the Rhone is here a conspicuous object.

From Gugel there is a path by the side of the Findelen Glacier back to Zermatt, but it is usual to return in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. over rough but level ground to the Riffelberg Inn. The return may be varied by descending to the foot of the Gorner Glacier, where the river issuing from it may be visited. The torrent from the glacier soon plunges into a gorge of serpentine, now rendered accessible by wooden scaffolding (admission 50 cts.), the commencement of a romantic forest ravine, through which it leaps and struggles until it reaches the meadows of Zermatt. The descent from the glacier to Zermatt takes about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.

b. *Schwarzsee, Hörnli and Zmutt Glacier* (railway projected from Zermatt to the Schwarzsee, and thence up the Matterhorn). The path is the same as that to the Théodule (Rte. 128) for the first 45 min. The mule-path then strikes up the mountain to the rt. and in about 1 hr. reaches a wild and rocky alp. Hence the path is nearly level and easy, and the traveller can contemplate at his leisure Monte Rosa and the Gorner Glacier, or the amazing mountain overhead. Another 45 min. will bring him to the *Schwarzsee*, at the foot of the Hörnli,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Zermatt. Ladies can ride up all the way, the path having been much improved lately. The Schwarzsee is a little lake (8393 ft. above the sea), with a lonely chapel beside it, and a new inn *H. Schwarzsee*. There is nothing remarkable in the spot itself ; but the low ridge east of it commands a superb view of the basin of Zermatt and surrounding mountains, in some respects finer than that from the Riffel. The Matterhorn, rising overhead, is the principal object ; but the view also embraces the snow-fields and summits of Monte Rosa, and the whole extent of the Gorner Glacier to the Cima di Jazzi. A still finer view is obtained from the *Hörnli*, an hour's steep ascent, a small part of which is over moraine, and not easy to find without a guide. To turn the preci-

pice overhanging the lake, it is necessary to walk two or three hundred yards towards the Zmutt Glacier, to a point where the shaly rocks slope down to the alp and are practicable. The Hörnli (9492 ft. above the sea), abuts upon the foot of the N.E. arête of the Matterhorn. It is, in fact, the lowest step of that amazing staircase by which the summit of the peak was first reached. Either from the Hörnli or from the Schwarzsee, the traveller can return by a different route to Zermatt, descending westward to the foot of the great glacier of Zmutt, and thence along the S. side of the Zmutt valley. This route passes through a forest, and abounds in most singular and beautiful pictures. It is less steep, but longer, than the other, and will take about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. If on horseback, it will be necessary to cross to the N. side by a romantic bridge about half-way down the valley; those on foot can continue through the forest, to the end of it, by a narrow path (a little difficult at one place), which falls into that from the Théodule; but the best rte., and as beautiful, is that over the bridge. The Zmutt Glacier is remarkable, and, to tired travellers, detestable, on account of the number of stones which cover it. For a long distance hardly any ice is to be seen, but it is well worth a visit on account of its magnificent view of the Matterhorn (engraved in Mr. Ruskin's *Modern Painters*). The two-roomed hut (recently destroyed by an avalanche, but to be re-built), built on the *Stockje*, 4 hrs. from Zermatt, greatly facilitates its exploration.

c. The ascent of the *Mettelhorn* (11,188 ft.), on the N. side of the Trift ravine, is one of the longest of the easy excursions from Zermatt, but also one of the most inviting. Horses cannot be used. It is best made by following a narrow track, at first nearly due N. from Zermatt, then mounting by zigzags and bearing to the l. till the Trift Glacier comes into

view. From thence a direct ascent, partly over snow, and very steep towards the top, leads to the summit, about 5 hrs. from Zermatt. The view is one of the most magnificent of easily accessible ice scenes. The gigantic cliffs of the Weisshorn rising beyond the Schalliberg Glacier are full in face to the N., the great Alpine range is on the S., the Saasgrat on the E., and the Oberland mountains grandly close the Zermatt valley on the N. All the mountains seem to turn their most precipitous sides to the observer.

The *Unter Mettelhorn* (seen from Zermatt) is a lower point, with a good view. The slanting path above the cornfields l. of the valley leads to the foot of it, and an exceedingly steep slope, covered with rhododendrons and grass, to the rocky top.

d. The *Hohbalm* (about 8000 ft.), a buttress of the Unter Gabelhorn S. of the Triftbach, and E. of the Unter Gabelhorn itself, commands views of the Monte Rosa chain and Matterhorn, equal, and in some respects superior, to those from the Riffelberg. It is easy of access from Zermatt, but there is as yet no path. Ascent 3 hrs. A pleasant short walk may be taken along the Triftbach. Edelweiss grows here, with many other Alpine flowers.

e. The *Unter Rothhorn*, N. of the Findelen Thal (and accessible to ladies), may be ascended in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. by a mule-path. This crosses the bridge just E. of Zermatt, slopes l. up the mountain meadows and forest to the Riederkummen glen lying N. of the peak. The S. side, which is seen from Zermatt, is covered with rocks, and not easy to climb, but there is no difficulty on the N. side. The view is panoramic. The summit resembles an inverted basin, and nothing near can be seen from its central point. It is 10,191 ft. above the sea, surrounded by a circle of snow mountains, and in view of the 3 chief glacier routes leading out of the valley of Zermatt, viz. the St. Théodule into Val d'Aosta, the Weiss-



thor into Val Anzasca, and the Col d'Hérens into Val d'Hérens. There is a short and steep descent into the Findelen Thal by which a traveller can return. N. of the Unter Rothhorn is the

*Ober Rothhorn* (11,214 ft.), connected with the *Rimpfischhorn* (to be distinguished from the far loftier *Rothhorn*, called also the *Moming* (13,856 ft.), on the opposite side of the Zermatt valley). The *Ober Rothhorn* is within the reach of moderate climbers (5 hrs.). Its ascent may be made from the *Stelli See* in the Findelen Thal, by mounting easy rocks to a col between the Unter and Ober Rothhorn, and then along the crest of the ridge; or from Zermatt by the *Riederkummen Thal*, whence the mountain can be attacked at several points.

### B. Ascents.

*Alphubel, Allalinhorn, Rimpfischhorn, Strahlhorn, Cima di Jazzi, Monte Rosa, Lysskamm, Zwillinge, Breithorn, Matterhorn, Gabelhorn, Wellenkuppe, Rothhorn.*

The ascents of the two chief peaks of the *Mischabelhörner* and of the *Weisshorn* have been mentioned under Randa (Rte. 126).

The *Alphubel* (13,803 ft.) is easily reached in 1 hr. from the *Alphubel Joch*. It is possible to pass over it, and return to Zermatt by the rte. of the *Mischabel Joch* (Rte. 121, e).

The *Allalinhorn* (13,236 ft.) is reached in 2 hrs. from the *Allalin Pass*, or by its rocky W. face, or from the *Alphubel Joch* by a long climb.

The *Rimpfischhorn* (13,790 ft.) may be ascended in 7 to 8 hrs. from Zermatt by the *Rimpfischwänge* or ridge separating the *Adler* and *Langenfluh* Glaciers. The ascent is not difficult for fair climbers.

The *Strahlhorn* (13,751 ft.) is easily reached in 1 hr. from the *Adler Pass*. Owing to its position, it commands one of the finest views towards Italy in this district.

*Cima di Jazzi* (12,527 ft.), the highest point of the elevated range

connecting Monte Rosa with the *Saasgrat*. It can be reached in 5 hrs. from the *Riffelberg Hotel* when the snow is in good condition. On the state of the snow the fatigue of this excursion entirely depends. It is often accomplished by ladies. During the greater part of the time the path is over ice and snow on gentle slopes, and there are few other mountains in the Alps of such a height which can be so easily ascended. The view from the top extends over the Pennine chain, the Bernese Alps, and the plains and lakes of Italy, and to Tyrol. A rope is always wanted, and neutral-tinted spectacles and veils should be taken. Starting from the *Riffelberg*, the path leaves the little lake at the foot of the *Riffelhorn* to the r., and passes nearly on a level along the very steep slope forming the southern face of the *Gorner Grat*, at first at a great height above the glacier, till the gradual rise of the ice brings its surface to a level with the path in about an hour after leaving the hotel. The glacier is then ascended for some distance, but the crevasses soon render it necessary to return to the rocks on the l. In about 2½ hrs. from the *Riffel* the traveller takes to the glacier again at the foot of the *Stockhorn*. From this point the track lies nearly in a straight line over easy slopes of snow. The final slopes are steeper, but not very long, and soon a point is reached where in two or three steps the scene is changed as if by enchantment. Instead of toiling over a snow-field, with no object visible save boundless fields of *névé* and occasional black rocks, the traveller finds himself on a summit of smooth snow, but close to a tremendous line of precipices, extending far to the S. along the face of Monte Rosa, and overhung by an ice cornice, which he must be very careful to keep at a safe distance. Looking downward, if the valley be clear, he sees the *Macugnaga Glacier* about 6000 ft. below, but apparently so near that

he might think a stone flung from the hand would reach it. It, however, more commonly happens, even in fine weather, that a cloud hangs like a curtain between the valley and the spectator. The descent is generally commenced on the steeper S. side, to enable the traveller to see the head of the Old Weissthor Pass. He has then the option of retracing his steps to the Riffel, or of returning by the Findelen Glacier to Zermatt. The ascent of the Cima can be easily combined with the passage of the New Weissthor.

*Monte Rosa* was known in the last century on the Aostan side as 'les monts roëses' (roesa = glacier in the local patois). The derivations of the name from the colour of the mountain at dawn or sunset, or from the arrangement of its ridges, resembling the petals of a rose, are untenable. The highest part of Monte Rosa consists of a range of 4 peaks running N. and S. (the Dufour Spitze being on a great buttress), the extremities of the range not being more than 2 m. apart. Commencing at the northern end, the names and heights of the whole of the 10 peaks included under the name are, according to the latest measurements—

	Eng. ft.
Nordend . . . . .	15,132
Höchste or Dufour Spitze . . . . .	15,217
Zumstein Spitze . . . . .	15,004
Signal Kuppe . . . . .	14,965
Parrot Spitze . . . . .	14,643
Ludwigshöhe . . . . .	14,253
Schwarzhorn . . . . .	13,882
Balmenhorn . . . . .	13,500
Vincent Pyramide . . . . .	13,829
Punta Giordani . . . . .	13,304

The *Dufour Spitze* is wholly Swiss—being thus the highest purely Swiss peak, and the last five peaks are wholly in Italy; the four remaining are on the frontier ridge.

The *Nordend* was first ascended in 1861 by Sir T. and Mr. E. Buxton, and Mr. Cowell.

The *Höchste Spitze* was attacked in 1848 by two Swiss (Professor Ulrich's guides), and in 1851 by the Schlagintweits, by the arête connecting

it with the *Nordend*, but the point reached, probably that now known as the *Grenzgipfel*, is lower than the summit, which so obtained the name of the *Allerhöchste Spitze*. It is now commonly known as the *Dufour Spitze*, a name given to it to do honour to General Dufour, the head of the Swiss Ordnance Survey at the time the first issue of its map was made. This was first climbed in 1855 by Messrs. Hudson, G. and C. Smyth, Birkbeck, and Stevenson, accompanied by Ulrich Lauener, of Lauterbrunnen, and 3 Zermatt guides, who reached it by the *rte.* which has been followed ever since. This, the highest peak of the mountain, is called *par excellence* Monte Rosa.

The *Zumstein Spitze* was ascended from the S. side as early as 1820 by the intrepid explorer whose name it bears.

The *Signal Kuppe* was reached in 1842 by M. Gnifetti, the *cure* of Alagna, and a Club hut is now being built near the summit by the Italian Alpine Club.

Since 1860, the ascent of the *Höchste Spitze* of Monte Rosa has become very common; for, though it is more difficult than that of Mont Blanc, yet, by starting from the Riffelberg, the expedition up and down may be accomplished in from 10 to 14 hrs., and there is no necessity for sleeping out on the mountain. Storms also seem less frequent than on Mont Blanc, and the fatal accidents have been much rarer. The traveller generally leaves the Riffel by starlight, crossing the Gorner Glacier at daybreak. At the foot of Monte Rosa he reaches the rocks called *Plattje*, and then, by a series of toilsome snow-slopes, winds his way to the *Sattel* at the W. ft. of the final peak. Just below it the *nevé* is very steep. The ridge has now to be ascended, and this is the difficulty of the mountain. On the S. a precipitous slope falls toward the *Grenz Glacier*, on the N. a steep ice-slope. Between the two lies the



edge or arête, inclined at a high angle, and formed partly of ice and partly of ice-cold rock. Great caution is here necessary; the advance is made step by step, but the rope should on no account be laid aside. At length a rock some 12 ft. high, which seems to bar the passage, is reached. The guide scrambles to the top, and by the aid of the rope the traveller follows. In another step he is on the *Allerhöchste Spitze*. The view is marvellous, chiefly for the contrast between the multitude of peaks seen on one side and the great plain of Italy on the other. Far below the eye rests on the meadows and village of Macugnaga. The ascent of the arête takes more than an hour, and the descent quite as much. The ascent has been made from the Riffel in 5 hrs.; at an ordinary pace, but steadily, in 6 hrs. 20 min., of which 1 hr. 20 min. on the arête.

The top of Monte Rosa has also been gained from the saddle between the Höchste Spitze and Zumstein Spitze and by several routes direct from the Grenz Glacier. The ascent from Macugnaga is noticed in Rte. 120.

The *Lyskamm* (14,889 ft.), was at one time considered to be the highest point of the Monte Rosa range. It was first ascended in 1861 by a large party of English, including Mr. Hardy and Dr. Sibson, led by Peter Perrin. Their route was that which has since been generally followed. Having gained the Lysjoch, they climbed the long ice arête (10 hrs., Riffel to the top). The ascent of this crest is difficult, requiring great caution, especially in avoiding the cornice. In 1869, a Mr. Chester fell from the ridge, and was killed; and in 1877 a party of 3 Englishmen and 3 guides, all fairly experienced climbers, perished, owing to the giving way of a large mass of the cornice on to which they had incautiously advanced. On the W., the mountain is accessible only under favourable circumstances. It

has been ascended from Gressoney by the S.W. arête, and this would appear to be by far the easiest and safest route.

*Zwillinge*. Either of these peaks—*Pollux* (13,432 ft.), *Castor*, (13,879 ft.)—can be reached from the passes skirting them (see below), but the Schwarze Glacier is sometimes formidably crevassed.

The *Breithorn* (13,685 ft.). Those who do not intend crossing into the Val d'Aosta by the St. Théodule (Rte. 128) will be gratified by ascending to the col. The scenery is grand, and the excursion neither dangerous, difficult, nor very fatiguing, unless the snow be soft. It is possible to ride as far as the glacier (at this point there is a small *Restaurant*), in 3½ hrs. from Zermatt; it then takes 1½ hr's. fair walking to reach the summit of the pass (10,899 ft. above the sea). The return to Zermatt may be made in 3½ hrs. From the hut on the col, where it is possible to sleep, the Breithorn may be ascended in 2 to 3 hrs. by the snow slopes on the S. side. A surface softened by exposure to the morning sun is the only difficulty; the descent will take about 2 hrs. The view from the Breithorn is nearly equal to that from Monte Rosa, and there is no great peak in this part of the Alps which can be ascended with so little fatigue. Even children have been dragged to the summit. The N. face of the Breithorn has also been climbed from the Riffel, but this is a difficult and often a very dangerous expedition.

The *Matterhorn* (14,705 ft.) (called *Mont Cervin* in Valtournanche), when seen from the Riffel, appears like a gigantic wedge piercing the sky. From Breuil the whole Italian face is a pile of terraced walls. Viewed from N. or S. the mountain has the form of a tower; from E. or W. of an obelisk. It has 4 ridges or arêtes—N.W. to the Zmutt Glacier; N.E. to the Hörnli; S.E., and more broken, towards St. Théodule; S.W., and still more irregular, towards the Dent d'Hérens.





London, John Murray, Albemarle Street.

Edw<sup>d</sup> Weller



a better course was found and this ascent is called the first entirely on the side of Valtournanche. It was discovered by the guides Joseph and J. Pierre Maquignaz, who were accompanied to the end of the arête by Victor Maquignaz, César, and J. B. Carrel, and Félicité, the daughter of J. B. Carrel. They left their ropes, by which subsequent ascents were rendered less difficult. In 1868 Prof. Tyndall was the first to pass over the peak from Breuil to Zermatt.

A new hut has now been built (to replace that on the *Cravate*) by the Italian Alpine Club at the foot of the *Grande Tour*; steps have been cut and chains fixed in the worst places, so that the ascent is now comparatively safe from Breuil. On the Zermatt side two huts have been built, the lower of which is now generally used, and chains fixed at the worst spots; doubtless the new *Inn* at the Schwarzsee will be much used henceforth as a starting-point, as the lower hut is in very bad condition, and the upper one practically ruined. The ascent is sometimes made in the day from Zermatt and back, or across from the Italian hut to Zermatt. The crest of the Matterhorn is a delicate edge of snow 580 ft. in length, and about 6 ft. higher towards the E. than the W. The vision plunges from it direct to Breuil. The ascent by the Italian side is, in scenery, finer than the other, but longer, and on the whole, harder climbing. From Zermatt the lower hut is reached in 5 hrs., and the top in 5 to 7 more. Several ladies have ascended the Matterhorn, but those who have done so have been practised in mountain climbing.

A bold scheme has lately been proposed (and has been officially sanctioned) of constructing a partly-funicular, partly-cogwheel rly. by way of Zum See and the Schaafberg to the Schwarzsee, and on to the lower hut on the Matterhorn. From this last point the line (whether funicular or pneumatic) is to be sub-

terranean, following the N.E. ridge of the peak, and emerging a few ft. below the summit, where a restaurant, bedrooms, &c., are to be constructed! It is reckoned that the work can be completed within 4 years.

The ascent of the Matterhorn is now frequently made in fine weather—often by persons utterly incompetent for such an expedition, who unjustifiably risk, not only their own lives, but those of their guides and companions. The man who without much previous experience in the High Alps attempts the Matterhorn, or any similar peak, is something worse than foolish, and is so regarded by all who have any knowledge of mountain craft. It can scarcely be hoped, however, unless warning is taken in time, that many summers will pass without a Matterhorn accident. After recent snow, or in early summer, the mountain is often utterly inaccessible, and the advice of good guides must always be taken before attempting it.

The ascent of the *Dent d'Hérens* is mentioned in Rte. 132.

The ascents of the *Tête Blanche* and *Dent Blanche* are mentioned in Rte. 131.

The next in the line of the Zermatt peaks is

The *Ober Gabelhorn* (13,364 ft.), first ascended by Messrs. Moore and Walker in 1865, by the Gabelhorn Glacier, and the N.E. arête. From Zinal the best route is viâ the Col Durand and along the W. ridge to the top. There are 4 or 5 other routes up the peak.

The N. peak of the Gabelhorn, the *Wellenkuppe* or *Weisskopf* (12,829 ft.) offers no great difficulties, and has of late been a very favourite ascent (5 or 6 hrs.) from the little *Inn* in the Trift gorge, which is convenient also for the Ober Gabelhorn and the Rothhorn.

*Rothhorn*, or *Moming* (13,856 ft.), a mountain with very steep and broken arêtes, that towards the S. being granite. It was ascended in 1864

from Zinal, but can be more easily ascended from Zermatt by way of the S.E. ridge, and is now a very favourite excursion for moderately active climbers.

The *Weisshorn* has already been described (Rte. 126).

### C. Passes.

The *Weissthor*, *Lysjoch*, *Felikjoch*, *Zwillingsjoch*, *Col de Valpelline*, *Col Durand*, *Triftjoch*.

For the passes over the Saasgrat, see Rte. 121.

The *New Weissthor Pass* (11,746 ft.) to Macugnaga is so called to distinguish it from the old pass S.W. of the Cima di Jazzi (Rte. 120). It presents no great difficulty to moderately practised climbers, is grand in its scenery, and can be made either to Mattmark or Macugnaga, from Zermatt or the Riffel. 9 or 10 hrs. are generally allowed (10–12 in the reverse direction). For two-thirds of the distance the track is over snow, but if this be in good order there is time to ascend the Cima on the way. From Zermatt the rte. lies up the Findelen valley (in which there is a small *Inn*) and glacier, falling in with that from the Riffel on the névé of the Findelen and Gorner Glaciers. The crevasses encountered on the Findelen are more numerous than on the Gorner Glacier, but with proper precautions there is no danger. It was here, however, in 1856, that a Russian gentleman lost his life when descending from the Weissthor. He fell into a crevasse, either through the rottenness of the rope or the carelessness of his guides, and died from the cold before assistance could be obtained. From the Riffel the track is nearly identical with that to the Cima di Jazzi (see *ante*), diverging l., and winding along the rolling, glittering expanse, towards a depression N. of the Cima. The traveller suddenly finds himself on the brink of steep rocks, which stretch far away along the face of Monte Rosa, and sweep down preci-

pitously to Macugnaga. Close at hand the traveller sees the ice-cased cliffs of the Strahlhorn, and solemn wilds of snow: but over Italy he has a more beautiful prospect — innumerable peaks, some shadowy on the horizon, others tinted like rainbows, and faintly glowing in the distant sunshine. A large Club hut is being built on the summit of the pass by the Italian Alpine Club. The descent lies over steep but not dangerous rocks and snowbeds to the pasturages at the head of Val Anzasca.

This description applies to the pass now exclusively used by the guides. The route formerly followed bore away to the left, to a rocky head marking the junction of the Strahlhorn ridge with the main chain of the Alps. It followed the latter, a sharp snow-crest (the 'Arête Blanche') for some hundred yards before turning down the rocks towards Macugnaga. This pass (called the Schwarzberg Weissthor, 11,523 ft.) is now used by travellers going from the Riffel to Mattmark, who cross the snow-crest and turn down to the N. at the same point as the old Macugnaga rte. did to the S.

The *Sesia Joch* is described in Rte. 119.

The *Lysjoch* or *Silber Pass*, between the Parrotpitze and the Lyskamm, a magnificent rte., leads a traveller either to Gressoney or Alagna, past all the 10 peaks of Monte Rosa. Messrs. W. and G. S. Mathews have the credit of first opening it as a pass from Zermatt to Italy in 1859, though it was reached in 1778, and crossed in 1820 and later years on the ascents of the Zumstein Spitze and Signal Kuppe. Alagna can be reached in 10 hrs., and the new *Inn* on the Col d'Olen in 8 or 9 from the Riffelberg Inn. Although 14,033 ft. above the sea, and crossing so wild and vast a chain, the Lysjoch is more fatiguing than difficult. The way lies up the *Grenz Glacier* to the great plateau, and to the eastern of 2 depressions



in the final ridge, between a swell of snow and the Parrotspitze. It then descends the E. branch of the *Lys Glacier*, between the S. buttress of the Lyskamm and the S. peaks of Monte Rosa, to the rocks above the top of the *Hohes Licht*, on which the Gnifetti Club hut has been built. A sharp descent down easy rocks leads to the Indren Glacier, which is crossed to the Colle delle Pisse, whence the Col d'Olen Inn is gained in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr., though the most direct way to Alagna is to cross the Colle delle Pisse and descend the Borsglen. If Gressoney is aimed at, the descent may be continued by easy snow-slopes E. of the Hohes Licht to the foot of the Indren Glacier, and so by the Salza Alp to Cortlis and Gressoney. In crossing the pass from the Italian side travellers must be careful to choose the E. gap farthest from the Lyskamm. The other is barred on the N. side by formidable crevasses.

The *Felik Joch*, between the Lyskamm and *Castor* (13,879 ft.), was first passed by Mr. W. Mathews and Mr. Jacomb in 1861, from the Cortlis chalet. It is 13,347 ft. in height, more difficult, and longer in point of time than the Lysjoch. Perhaps the finest part of it is the grand *sérac* scenery of the *Zwillings Glacier*. In August 1876, a party of four, having missed the right track in crossing this pass when the snow was in very bad condition, were carried down in an avalanche of loose snow probably started by their own weight. Mr. Johnson and one guide, Franz Sarbach, were never seen again. Mr. Hayman and the other guide escaped, but spent the night on the glacier. They were found next morning by travellers from the Riffelberg. They were both badly frost-bitten, and Mr. Hayman died on the 12th day afterwards. The pass is just at the E. foot of *Castor*, and does not connect (as the 1876 and other parties have thought) the Lys and *Zwillings* Glaciers.

The *Zwillings Joch*, between *Castor*

and *Pollux*, first named *Col de Verra* from the *Verra Glacier*, down which the descent is made to the Val d'Ayas, was discovered by Mr. Winkworth in 1863. Its height is 12,668 ft., and it was reached by finding a way through the crevassed *Zwillings Glacier*, and then climbing a very steep ice-slope.

The *Schwarzthor*, between the *Breithorn* and *Pollux* (13,432 ft.), the western of the *Twins* (*Zwillinge*), was one of the early achievements of Mr. John Ball, pioneer here as elsewhere in the Alps. He crossed it in 1845 to the Val d'Ayas, and in the first series of *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers*, he has given a thrilling account of the difficulties he encountered from the depth of the snow, the size of the crevasses, and the incompetence of the guide. Wading nearly to the waist, he had to drag this man after him up the wildly broken *Schwärze Glacier*. The height of the pass is 12,274 ft. It leads to the Val d'Ayas, and is a fine glacier pass, the difficulties of which vary exceedingly, according to the state of the glaciers.

For the *St. Théodule* and *Furggjoch*, see Rte. 128.

The *Col Tournanche* to Breuil, and the *Tiefenmatten Joch* to the Valpelline, are two mountaineers' routes. The former is a very stiff climb on the N. side; the latter is exposed to falling séracs and stones. For the *Col de Valpelline* see Rte. 132, and for the direct glacier routes to Arolla and Chermontane, Rtes. 132 and 136.

The *Col d'Hérens* (11,418 ft.) is described in Rte. 132. The summit of the pass, and the *Tête Blanche*, which rises 886 ft. above it, may be reached in a long day's excursion, returning to Zermatt in the evening.

**Zermatt to Zinal** (Rte. 129). 5 or more glacier-passes have been made from Zermatt to the Val d'Anniviers by mountaineers. Of these 2 are here described.

The *Col Durand* at the head of the *Durand Glacier*, between the *Pointe de Zinal* and *Mont Durand*. The

only difficulty is the steep ice or snow wall, and its bergschrund on the Zinal side. On reaching the summit from the Zinal side, one of the most striking views in the Alps is suddenly presented to the wanderer. The peak of the Matterhorn in all its grandeur is seen exactly opposite, rising to the height of 14,705 ft., while the spectator is himself upon a terrace 11,398 ft. above the sea. The Zmutt Glacier, filling the valley between, is reached by a steep descent, down the *Hohwäng Glacier* and by a notch N. of the *Ebihorn*. From 12 to 15 hrs. should be allowed for this expedition.

The most popular pass from Zinal to Zermatt is the *Triftjoch* (11,615 ft.). This is reached by the ravine of the *Trift*, which opens behind Zermatt (and in which there is now a small *Inn*), and crossing the shoulder of the mountain to the *Trift Glacier*, which is then ascended close to the base of the *Trifthorn*. A steep gully leads up from a bergschrund to the pass, which is a mere gap in an extremely sharp ridge connecting the *Trifthorn* with the *Gabelhorn*. The view from it in both directions is most grand and striking, and well worth an excursion from Zermatt. On the W. the rocks fall away in a precipice of formidable depth to the *Zinal Glacier*, and the descent of this wall is the main difficulty of the pass. It tries the steadiness of both travellers and guides, and there is always some risk from falling stones. The *Zinal Glacier* is not difficult, save that in one crevassed portion it is sometimes necessary to take to the rocks. This pass may with more advantage be made from the Zinal side, as it is easier to ascend than to descend steep rocks. It is a day's work of 11 or 12 hrs., including the ordinary halts. The *Constantia Club* hut (a sort of small Alpine inn) at Mountet shortens this by 4 hrs. for those who sleep there.

It is possible in a single day to make a most interesting expedition, and return to Zermatt in the even-

ing. For this purpose the traveller should first ascend to the top of the *Trift Pass*, and then, returning to the foot of the *Trift Glacier*, ascend the shoulder of the *Gabelhorn* to the *Unter Gabeljoch*, just (W. of the *Unter Gabelhorn*) opposite the *Matterhorn*, the view of which can scarcely be surpassed by that from the *Col Durand*. From thence it is possible to descend to the lower end of the *Zmutt Glacier*, and so regain Zermatt.

*Moming Pass*. This very fine but difficult pass is described in *Rte. 130*.

A high level tour of *Monte Rosa* is sometimes made by mountaineers—1. by the *New Weisssthor* to *Macugnaga*; 2. *Col delle Loccie* to *Alagna*; 3. *Col d'Olen*; 4. *Lysjoch* to the *Riffel*.

For ordinary travellers there is the circuit by the *Monte Moro* to *Macugnaga* and *Ponte Grande*; *Baranca Pass* to *Varallo*, and by *Alagna* and the *Col d'Olen* to *Gressoney*; *Col de la Ranzola* and *Col de Jon* to *Châtillon*; and the *St. Théodule* to Zermatt—a delightful round; or from *Gressoney*, *Bettliner Pass* to *Fiéry* in *Val d'Ayas*, and *Cîmes Blanches* to Zermatt.

For more detailed information as to all mountain expeditions between the *Great St. Bernard* and the *Simplon*, see *Mr. Conway's Pennine Guide*, 2 parts (*Fisher Unwin*, 1890-1), in which many high passes not here mentioned will be found fully described.

## ROUTE 128.

### ZERMATT, BY THE COL ST. THEODULE, TO CHÂTILLON.

Hrs.	
	Zermatt
4½ . .	Col St. Théodule
2¼ . .	Breuil
2 . .	Valtournanche
3½ . .	Châtillon

The *St. Théodule* or *Matterjoch* is the easiest of the high glacier passes of the Alps, and on that account the



most frequented. Horses can occasionally be taken across. The snow on the glacier is often deep, and the time taken is then of course much longer. No one should, however, attempt to pass it alone. In the very common case of clouds resting on the summit, it is very easy to miss the way, and fatal accidents have occurred from the neglect of the rope, which on this, as on every glacier where the ice is coated with snow, ought to be used, not from any immediate apprehension of danger, but because it is the proper way of averting it.

Many hundred travellers, including ladies, cross the pass every year. The usual plan for ladies, is to take a horse from Zermatt for 2 hrs. or 3 hrs., to the glacier. From this point it is a walk of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to the Col, and of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to the foot of the Fourneaux, where mules may sometimes be found in the season; or, if thought necessary, a guide may be sent on to order a mule from the *Inn* at Breuil.

By starting from the Riffel the ascent is shortened by half an hour, and this way is the more interesting, as it leads across the Gorner Glacier, but, of course, horses cannot be used. In making the pass from the Italian side, the ascent to the Riffel will take rather more time than the descent to Zermatt.

The path on leaving Zermatt follows the l. bank of the stream, and in about 15 min. crosses the torrent from the Zmutt Glacier; it then winds upwards by meadows and chalets, and in 45 min. from Zermatt begins a rapid ascent through woods to the pastures on the W. side of the Gorner Glacier. Here it runs on a level, with a fine view up the ice-fall to Monte Rosa. The torrent from the Furgg Glacier, descending in a deep rift, is then crossed, and the path again becomes very steep. In 2 hrs. from Zermatt the pastures are left, and the track becomes bad for horses, lying over rocks and loose schist, with no de-

finite path, till in 1 hr. more the glacier is reached. (At this point the track from the Riffel falls in, and here a small *Restaurant* has been recently built.) It is singularly smooth and free from crevasses, except near the col, where there are always a few covered over, and dangerous whenever snow has fallen freshly.  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr. walking is required hence to the summit, 10,899 Eng. ft. above the sea. The prospect immediately around is of one continuous ice-field. Then, the eye wanders down the valley of St. Niklaus to the Bernese Alps, sweeps round by the Saasgrat to Monte Rosa, looks across to the peaks of Cogne, and rests upon that wonder of the Alps, the Cervin or Matterhorn. To the E., in immediate proximity, are the *Petit Mt. Cervin* (12,750 ft.) and *Breithorn* (13,685 ft.); to the W. the *Theodulhorn* (11,392 ft.).

On the crest of the col there is some bare rock, and a little space so exposed that the snow seldom rests upon it. Here De Saussure remained 3 days in 1792 with his son and attendants, engaged in experiments. Traces of the rude cabins in which they sheltered still exist, and also of a redoubt thrown up 3 centuries ago by the Duke of Savoy in 1688 (as on the Col de Fenêtre between the Bagnes valley and Aosta) to prevent the return of the exiled Vaudois into his dominions, and known by the name of Fort St. Théodule.

The first *hut* (opposite which a larger one now stands) was erected in 1854, and here bread, cheese, coffee, and hot wine may be obtained during the summer. It is the highest habitation in Europe, and has beds for travellers. Prices are high, but travellers should remember that the Italian Government has the meanness to take advantage of the larger hut being a foot or two on their side of the frontier to impose taxes on the proprietors, and that the cost of transport of all provisions is very costly.

The descent towards the Val

d'Aosta lies over the glacier for 40 min.; then by a steep descent down rocks and loose rubbish, called the *Fourneaux*, for 45 min. At the foot of this, or even at the foot of the glacier, mules left by travellers on the ascent may often be found waiting during the season.  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr. over pastures will bring you to the

*Inn* at Giomein, just above *Breuil* (6878 ft.), situated on an eminence in the midst of very grand scenery. Over-head tower the Matterhorn and the *Dent d'Hérens*, here called *Mont Tabor*; to the E. rise the snows of the *Breithorn*, on the S. the singular rocks of the *Château des Dames*. Many charming short walks may be found in the neighbourhood, with views of the stupendous Matterhorn.

In preference to passing the *Théodule*, mountaineers occasionally cross the ridge close to the Matterhorn. This pass is known as the *Furggjoch*, and is somewhat shorter than the *Théodule*. There is a steep slope on the N. side, where ice-axes may be required.

[From *Breuil* the *Breithorn* may be ascended more conveniently than from Zermatt. It was from this hotel that, with one or two exceptions, all the early attempts were made to scale the Matterhorn, and the landlord will point out the *Col du Lion*, *Cravate*, *Pic Tyndall*, *Epaule*, and other points in the tremendous ascent. The hut near the *Grande Tour* is reached in 5 to 7 hrs., and the summit in 5 to 6 hrs. more, under ordinary circumstances. Very active climbers, under exceptionally favourable conditions, have reached the top from the *Inn* at *Breuil*, and returned to it on the same day, viâ the *Hörnli* ridge and *Furggjoch*.

E. passes over various points of the *Cimes Blanches* ridge lead in 4 or 5 hrs. to the *Inn* at *Fiéry* in *Val d'Ayas*, and W. the *Col de Val Courrière* to *Prarayen* in the *Valpelline*; from the latter pass, or more directly from *Breuil* in 9 hrs.—a very fine view—the *Château des Dames* (11,447 ft.) may be ascended. In

1873 Mr. A. G. Puller reached the top of the *Dent d'Hérens* from *Breuil*, but this is a circuitous and severe climb, as are too the ascents of the *Jumneaux* and the other fine peaks on the ridge between the *Dent d'Hérens* and the *Château des Dames*.]

At the *Inn* are mules and side-saddles. For peaks or passes *guides* are to be found at the village of *Valtournanche*; some of them were celebrated for their ascents of the Matterhorn, but these are either dead or past work.

Descending to the little plain and following the l. bank of the stream, an extraordinary scene of desolation is crossed, then another little plain succeeded by another waste, and the chalets of *Avui*. The path then enters a ravine, and follows a narrow ledge through magnificent scenery to the chapel of *N. D. de la Garde* (1 hr. 15 min. from *Breuil*). Near this the torrent makes 1 or 2 fine waterfalls in a remarkable gorge (*Gouffre des Busserailles*), like that of *Pfäfers*, which has been made accessible by wooden galleries, and is well worth visiting (1 fr. admission). Two waterfalls descend into the narrow cleft, which is almost closed overhead by its rocky walls. A short and steep descent follows, and the torrent is crossed to the rt. bank. 30 min. farther the path again crosses the stream, and a short ascent leads to *Paquier*, the chief hamlet of

*Valtournanche* (5000 ft.), a village finely situated on an eminence commanding a magnificent view down the valley, to the snows of the *Punta di Tersiva*. Outside the church is a tablet to the memory of *Chanoine Carrel* of *Aosta*, a well-known name to all Alpine explorers (see *Aosta*.)

[N.E. is the *Grand Tournalin* (11,086 ft.). The ascent can be made in 4 hrs. by a new path from *Valtournanche*, and is highly recommended. A panorama of the view from the summit has been published by the Italian Alpine Club.











An excursion to the *Chêneil* chalets (1 hr.) and the ascent of the *Punta Fontana Fredda* (8248 ft.), above them, is recommended.

The *Cols de Nana* and *de Portola* lead to the Val d'Ayas in 4 hrs., and there are also other passes.

The *Col de Val Cournère* leads to Prarayen, and there are also paths across the hills to Val St. Barthélemy, and so to Val d'Aosta.]

A steep set of zigzags leads down to the bridge, which takes the traveller to the rt. bank.

The whole of the scenery below Valtournanche is magnificent. The valley is green and in great part shaded by chestnut and walnut trees; the torrent sparkles and foams among rocks and precipices, and the Matterhorn is occasionally in view. About an hr. from Valtournanche, at Ussin, a carriage-road begins. A char (15 fr. to Châtillon) may be hired at Valtournanche to meet the traveller here. Near this spot some extraordinary remains of a 15th cent. *Aqueduct* may be seen on the face of the rock, to the rt., and they are continued at intervals for several m. The finest portion consists of some very perfect arches in front of a cliff several hundred ft. above the valley, nearly opposite the village of **Antey**, hanging as in a picture against the rock. There is also a fine 13th cent. *Aqueduct* on the E. side of the valley, below Antey. The road continues on the rt. bank for nearly 2 hrs., then crosses for about 10 min., and returns to the rt. for the rest of the way. Pedestrians can find paths close to the stream and through shady meadows till close to Châtillon. This part of the valley is very hot in summer, and should be passed early in the morning or late in the evening.

**Châtillon** (see Rte. 134).

*Route Reversed.* — Guides, horses, and side-saddles will be found at Châtillon, at Valtournanche, and at Breuil.

A little beyond Châtillon a footpath to the rt. goes along the stream through shaded meadows and joins the char-road about 2 m. farther on. It takes 4 hrs. moderate walking to reach Valtournanche, and about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to go thence to Breuil. 3 hrs. are quite sufficient for the ascent to the col, unless there be much fresh snow; and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. or less will take the traveller from the summit to Zermatt or to the Riffel.

*Pass of the Cimes Blanches.*—To reach the Val d'Ayas from Zermatt by the Col St. Théodule involves a much longer passage over glacier than by the ordinary rte. to Breuil, but presents no difficulty unless after fresh snow, when it may be very fatiguing.

A little below the col, on the Italian side, the rte. turns off l. and descends a plateau of snow to the chain of the Cimes Blanches (9777 ft.) ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.), whence traversing the Ventina Glacier the chalets of Ventina ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.) are reached, and in 2 hrs. more the *Inn* at Fiéry, near S. Giacomo d'Ayas. The valley may be descended to Brusson in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. (Rte. 125), or the *Bettaforca* may be crossed to Gressoney (Rte. 125), but the three passes are a *long day's walk*.

## ROUTE 129.

ST. NIKLAUS, BY THE TURTMANN THAL, TO ST. LUC IN THE VAL D'ANNIVIERS. [ASCENT OF THE BELLA TOLA.]

Hrs.	St. Niklaus
$4\frac{1}{2}$	Augstbord Pass
2	Gruben
$2\frac{1}{2}$	Zmeiden Pass
2	St. Luc.

—  
II

This rte. is a pleasant way of reaching or leaving Zermatt, and forms a variation on the old Visp rte. Sierre can be reached in 2

easy days from St. Niklaus by sleeping at Zmeiden. The whole road is passable by mules. Those who wish thoroughly to see this district will, in place of descending from St. Luc to Sierre, turn up the Val d'Anniviers to Zinal, and thence cross to Evolena (see Rte. 130). The paths are rough and solitary, so that a single traveller will do well to take a guide.

The path to the *Augstbord Pass* leaves the main road above the village of St. Niklaus and runs through woods and rocks, ascending gradually for nearly an hour. It then crosses the Jung torrent, and ascends by steep zigzags through a forest to the chalets and chapel of *Jungen*, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from St. Niklaus. The white chapel of Jungen is plainly seen from St. Niklaus, and from it there is a magnificent view of the valley and its mountains. [Hence the wild and savage *Jung Pass* leads to Gruben.]

From Jung the path ascends steeply for about 10 min., then bears away to the l. until it again reaches the Jung torrent. It then turns sharply to the rt., and keeps tolerably level until in about an hr. from Jungen the shoulder at the entrance of the *Augstbord Thal* is reached. There is a pile of stones at this point, and the views up and down the valley of St. Niklaus and up the Rhone valley are again magnificent. For the next  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. the path, here rough, *descends* towards the stream in the *Augstbord* valley. After reaching the l. bank of the stream the path ascends through a dreary waste of stones, and at last reaches the col by a few zigzags.

From the pass itself (9500 ft.) there is not much view, but the *Schwarzhorn* (10,522 ft.)—sometimes confused with the lower Dreizehntenhorn—on the rt. may be ascended in 1 hr. by a rough path. It commands a panoramic view, superior to that from the Bella Tola, and for united grandeur and extent scarcely equalled in the Alps by any summit

of similar elevation. The *Weisshorn* and *Mischabel* are superb objects in the foreground, and (except the *Matterhorn*) all the Alpine chain from Mont Blanc to the St. Gotthard are in view.

A descent through a stony valley leads to the chalets of the Gruben Alp, where there is a fine view into the Turtmann Thal and over the opposite mountains. The remaining descent into the valley is through forest.

**Zmeiden**, or **Gruben**, properly Z' Meiden (6060 ft.), is over 2000 ft. higher than St. Niklaus, so that it takes nearly 1 hr. more from St. Niklaus to Zmeiden than from Zmeiden to St. Niklaus.

The *Turtmann Thal* is a wild valley about 15 m. in length, from the point where its stream falls into the Rhone at Turtmann, to the glacier N. of the *Weisshorn*, whence it takes its rise. Though, in addition to numerous chalets perched on the upper pastures, it contains several hamlets, these consist exclusively of *mayens*, which are inhabited for a few weeks only in the spring and autumn. A magnificent forest formerly covered the valley, but for many years the axe has been busy, and large clearings made. The timber is partly floated, partly taken by a slide, to Turtmann, where it is sawn. The summer inhabitants of the Turtmann Thal come from the German-speaking portion of the Valais; those of the Val d'Anniviers and Val d'Hérens are from the French-speaking portion of the district.

[**Zmeiden to Turtmann** (*Tourtemagne*) (Rte. 56) is a very pleasant bridle-path down the valley of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. The road does *not* pass in sight of the waterfall behind the latter village.]

[*Turtmann Glacier*. The valley can be ascended to its head,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Zmeiden, and a visit made to this magnificent glacier, which may be traversed with the greatest ease to the foot of the ice-fall under the cliffs of the *Weisshorn*. Mules can



be taken nearly to the foot of the glacier. Over its head lies the difficult *Bies Joch* to Randa (see Rte. 126 under Randa), and the *Brunegg Joch* to a point in the valley between that place and St. Niklaus.

There are bridle-passes from Gruben to St. Luc; (a) the *Zmeiden Pass*—the most beautiful, direct, and easy, not requiring a guide; (b) the *Pas du Bœuf*, longer, but with the advantage of permitting the ascent of the *Bella Tola* by the way. S. of these are the less interesting (c) *Pas de la Forcletta* and (d) the *Frilijoch*, both leading to Ayer and Zinal; and (e) the glacier pass of the *Col des Diablons*, from the *Turtmann Glacier* to Zinal.

a. *Zmeiden Pass*.—Crossing the stream above the village, and then bearing a little to the rt., the path ascends through the forest by steep zigzags immediately opposite the village for nearly 1 hr. At the top of the steep ascent the path turns to the l., and soon reaches the lower *Zmeiden* chalets. Going from them nearly straight up the mountain the upper chalets are reached, commanding magnificent views of the *Weisshorn* and its glaciers. Continuing nearly straight, in a few minutes the first of the little piles of stones which mark the track all the way to the col is seen.

The ground is rough and broken, but the final ascent is by easy zigzags up a stony slope covered with blue gentians. The *Col* lies between a steep pinnacle of quartz called the *Tounot* (9912 ft.), and another rocky point on the N., which is said to command as fine a view as the *Bella Tola*. The scene on the S. side is wild and striking—dark and broken cliffs, and ruins of the quartz rock which forms the main ridge, while to the W. starts up the fantastic obelisk of the *Bec de Bosson*. The descent is down a gently sloping alp, with no defined path, as far as a brow, crowned by a cross, from which the fall is rapid. From this point the church of St. Luc and the *Val d'Anniviers* are seen, and to the

rt. is a white chalet, with a cross, from which the path to St. Luc is plain.

For a traveller coming in the opposite direction, the path is the same as that to the *Bella Tola* (see below) as far as the white chalet. It there bears to the right towards a wooden cross, then goes up the stony and marshy valley, and in a short time the col is seen. (N.B. beware of going too much to the l.) The col is between two rugged peaks; that on the N. having on its S. side a remarkable white pinnacle or obelisk. Before long the zigzags up the col are seen, and the traveller has then only to make the best of his way through the rocks, and pools, and marshes, as there is no regular track. From the col the path is well marked.

b. The *Pas du Bœuf*, N. of the *Zmeiden Pass*, is more frequently traversed for the sake of ascending the *Bella Tola*, and cannot well be found without a guide. The path is the same as to the *Zmeiden Pass* to the head of the forest, where it turns rt. along the mountain-side to the entrance of the *Bortenthal* (the 2nd valley on the l.), from which all distant view is shut out. The *Col* is 9154 ft. above the sea.  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. beyond it a mule-path, rt., leads up to

c. The *Pas de la Forcletta*, 9800 ft. (6 or 7 hrs. to Zinal by mule path), which has little to recommend it, except its directness and view of the *Weisshorn*. The path leaves the *Turtmann Thal* at the hamlet above Gruben, slants up S.W. through forest, and, passing 2 sets of chalets, enters a bare valley, which it follows to the crest. The descent is down grass to the wood above Ayer, about 1 hr. from Zinal.

d. A more interesting route has been followed, over the *Frilijoch*, by walking for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. up the *Turtmann Glacier*, then ascending rt. to the mountain ridge (of white quartz), and crossing it close to the *Diablons*. On the other side is a

very stony valley, leading either to Ayer or Zinal.

e. The *Col des Diablons*, or *Col de Tracuit* (10,670 ft.), between the Weisshorn and Diablons, is reached in 7 or 8 hrs. by ascending the glacier, then a very steep rock wall, and the W. branch of the Turtmann Glacier under the rocks of the *Diablons* (11,851 ft.), which may be reached from the pass. The descent to Zinal is quite easy. This is a fine pass, but the rock wall is difficult.

**St. Luc.** This village—here commonly called *Luc*—is perched upon the steep E. slope of the valley, 5496 ft. above the sea, and 1460 ft., or 1 hr., above Vissoye. It has been twice nearly burned down since 1840, and so far rebuilt in stone, and commands a magnificent view of the head of the valley, with the (here) chisel-shaped head of the Matterhorn, towering over the Col Durand (Rte. 127), and the grand circle of peaks from the Grand Cornier to the Gabelhorn known as the Grande Couronne.

*Ascent of the Bella Tola from St. Luc.*—Mules can go up the mountain to within  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. of the top, but over a great part of the distance there is no regular track, and the traveller without a guide is pretty sure to lose his way. The path ascends behind the little *Inn* at St. Luc, keeping tolerably level for about 25 min., when it strikes off to the l. and ascends by some zigzags towards three chalets. It then keeps to the rt. and skirting a wood ascends over pastures to a very conspicuous white chalet with a wooden cross,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr. from St. Luc. The path then bears away to the l. and for nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. is well marked, but then comes out on a trackless alp. The mountain is not seen at this part of the rte. After some time, if the right track is taken, the peak and its zigzags are seen, and thenceforward there is no difficulty in finding the way. Mules could scarcely be

taken up for the last  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. The view from the top (10,138 ft.) is very fine. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the top is a small hut where it would be possible, but not pleasant, to pass the night. Those who are going on to Zmeiden will, at the foot of the zigzags, take the path over the *Pas du Bœuf*.

From St. Luc a steep mule-path leads in about an hour to the char-road by which *Sierre* is reached (see Rte. 130).

[There is a bridle-path of much beauty from *Susten*, in the Rhone valley opposite Leuk (Rte. 56), leading in 5 or 6 hrs. by the *Illsee* and *Chandolin* to St. Luc. The *Illsee* is 7684 ft.; the col, between the *Illhorn* (N.) and *Schwarzhorn* (S.), some hundred feet higher. By making  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. *détour*, a crest overlooking the precipice N. of the *Illhorn* may be visited. It is locally called the *Eboulement* (or *Illgraben*). Here the whole side of a mountain seems to have given way, and fallen as a vast ruin into the valley, leaving a yawning gulf surrounded by crumbling and treacherous crags. The *Illhorn* (8937 ft.) may be ascended; but the view is not equal to that from either the *Bella Tola* or the *Schwarzhorn*. The ascent to the col from *Susten* is very fine, passing through a dense forest of old pines, with peeps to the rt. into the *Illgraben*. The descent to St. Luc is a walk of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. (of 2 up). To the point of view on the edge towards *Sierre* is an *excursion* from St. Luc. There and back will take 4 or 5 hrs.; it is a beautiful walk, for a long way through forest—guide 6 fr.]

## ROUTE 130.

SIERRE TO ZINAL—VAL D'ANNI-  
VIERS—PASSES FROM ZINAL.

Hrs.	
2	Niouc
$1\frac{1}{2}$	Vissoye
$2\frac{1}{2}$	Zinal
—	
6	



The **Val d'Anniviers**, or *Einfisch Thal*, opens immediately S. of Sierre. There are now comfortable *inns* at *St. Luc*, *Vissoye*, and *Zinal*, and the valley is much frequented by those who seek for glacier passes and fine scenery.

Beyond the bridge on the Simplon road, 1 m. outside Sierre, the char-road up the Val d'Anniviers branches off on the rt. It at once ascends steeply. A fine view of the peaks at the head of the valley is gained before reaching **Niouc** (2 hrs.). The road high above the torrent winds round the sides of precipitous ravines, penetrating the projecting spurs by three short tunnels. The village of *Fang* is left below (here the steep footpath to *St. Luc* in 1½ hr. branches rt.) amongst fine walnut-trees, and soon afterwards the valley opens and *Vissoye* comes into sight.

**Vissoye** is the principal village of the valley, and is finely situated.

2 m. above *Vissoye*, just below the village of **Gremenz**, the valley divides into two branches: the western, leading to the glacier of *Moiry* and the principal pass into the Val d'Hérens, by the Col de Torrent (see below), is called the *Val de Moiry*; the eastern, which descends from the glacier of *Zinal*, the *Val de Zinal*.

The char-road passing **Ayer** (near which cobalt and nickel are found), where a path from *St. Luc* falls in, is continued to

**Zinal** (5505 ft.), the last hamlet in this branch of the valley (2½ hrs. from *Vissoye*), is only inhabited for a few weeks in the summer. It is a most interesting centre for excursions, lying in the neighbourhood of grand glaciers and magnificent mountains, and the view from the inn is highly suggestive. A fine feature is the dark *Lo Besso* (12,058 ft.), with bold forked crest, but the neighbouring giants look down upon it. From its base stretches the *Durand* or *Zinal Glacier*, with the plainly-marked *Col Durand* (Rte. 127) at its

head, between the *Pointe de Zinal W.*, and the *Mont Durand E.* To the W. of this glacier basin are the *Dent Blanche*, 14,318 ft., and *Grand Cornier*, 13,022 ft., to the E. the *Gabelhorn*, 13,364 ft., *Rothhorn* or *Moming*, 13,856 ft., and *Weisshorn*, 14,804 ft.

*Zinal* is the starting-point for numerous high ascents, while for ordinary travellers there are various beautiful

**Excursions.**—*a.* The *Durand* or *Zinal Glacier*, 2 good hrs. from the inn, though black with moraine and débris, and shut in towards its lower end, expands above into far-stretching fields of unsullied snow. The path runs along the W. side of the valley to the gorge at the foot of the glacier, and for about 1 m. beyond it, as far as the bank is practicable. The glacier is then entered upon—just where it begins to grow white—and crossed to the E. side. Persons able to do so should not fail to go as far as the *Constantia Club hut* (9075 ft., a sort of small *Alpine Inn*) at *Mountet*, on the slopes of the *Mont Blanc de Moming* (4½ hrs.) to gain the superb view of the amphitheatre of peaks enclosing the head of the glacier; and the excursion may be continued to the *Roc Noir*, a fine view point in the centre of the glacier, 1 hr. from the hut. 10 or 11 hrs. must be allowed, and a guide taken.

*b.* The track to the *Arpitetta Alp* (2 hrs.), cut off by the *Moming Glacier* from *Lo Besso*, crosses the waste of moraines which conceal the skirts of the *Durand Glacier*. The view is superb, particularly of the W. side of the *Weisshorn*, which, seen from this point, may rank with the E. side of *Monte Rosa* and the S. side of *Mont Blanc*. An old moraine, hundreds of feet above the present glacier, offers an agreeable terrace-walk.

*c.* The *Alp de l'Allée* (2½ hrs.) is another fine point of view. This is on the W. side of the valley, opposite the *Arpitetta Alp*, and reached by a

cattle-path from the stone chalet at the foot of the Zinal Glacier. It rises to the *Pigne de l'Allée* (11,168 ft., 6 hrs. direct from Zinal), directly S. of the *Col de l'Allée*, a high pass to the W. branch of the Val d'Anniviers. The *Bouquetin* (11,431 ft.), a commanding point near the Grand Cornier, may be gained from this col in 6 hrs. from Zinal.

The two following excursions are easy, and do not differ from each other much in length; they include some of the finest scenery of the district.

*d. Ridge of the Crête de Millon* (guide). The path mounts from Zinal to a white chalet on the Tracuit Alp, then to the l. to join a higher path, leading rt. to the high plateau of Combesana, between the Diablons and Crête de Millon, not seen from Zinal. Cross this S.E. to low gap in the Crête, from which there is a splendid view of the Weisshorn and its glacier, and the tremendous séracs of the Moming Glacier, with the singularly small top of the Rothhorn above. Hence the *Pointe d'Arpitetta* (10,392 ft.) may probably be climbed. Descend by the Weisshorn Glacier and moraines to the *Arpitetta Alp*.

*e. Garde de Bordon*. Ascend to Col de Sorebois (this détour may be avoided by rather more of a scramble to the l.), then to l. along crest of ridge to summit (10,879 ft.). An unnecessary circuit to rt., involving a descent, is generally made here to avoid easy rocks. Descent along ridge S.E. to lower summit, thence direct and easy to *Alp de l'Allée*. So fine a panorama (extending from Mont Blanc to the Furka) is rarely to be obtained in the course of so easy and varied a walk. Grand views of the Weisshorn, the glacier, &c., in the descent. No snow work.

*f. The Roc de la Vache* (8488 ft.) is a pleasant little ascent, and the return may be made by the Arpitetta Alp. 5 hrs. up and down.

*g. The Pointe d'Arpitetta* (10,392 ft.)

may be reached in  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. by the Arpitetta Alp, and might probably be combined with *d*.

The fine peak of the *Grand Cornier* (13,022 ft.), N. of the Dent Blanche, has been climbed by several ridges. It is easiest from the S. or E.; but from any direction is only for trained climbers, with good guides.

The *Diablons* (11,851 ft.) can be ascended in 5 hrs. from Zinal, the central peak being the highest. The view from the top is magnificent, and the ascent, though somewhat fatiguing, is well worth the trouble, and not difficult for persons of ordinary activity.

The great peaks which overlook the Zinal Glacier have all been gained from this side. They offer feats of sheer climbing, fit only for men skilled in the craft. The lower summit of Lo Besso, though a severe scramble, may be reached in 3 to 4 hrs. from the Club hut at Mountet.

### Glacier Passes from Zinal.

The *Col des Diablons* to Zmeiden (see Rte. 129). The passes to Zermatt are described in Rte. 127. The passes are rather more easy from this side. The start is made from Mountet. Time over the *Triftjoch*—Mountet to foot of rocks 2 hrs.; pass  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ; foot of Trift Gl. 2.10; Zermatt 2 (easy).

*Moming Pass* (12,287 ft.), a difficult but magnificent pass between the Rothhorn and Schallihorn to Zermatt or Randa, was first made in 1864. The snow and ice scenery is superb.

*Schalli Joch* (12,306 ft.), between the Schallihorn and Weisshorn, to Randa, is too difficult to be often attempted.

*Col du Grand Cornier* (11,628 ft.), between the Dent Blanche and Grand Cornier to Evolena. The ascent is through the séracs near the cliffs of the Dent Blanche, and then to the rt. up the rocks to the col. The descent is by easy snow-slopes to the Bricolla Alp.

In going to Zinal from Evolena by the ordinary rte. of the *Col de Torrent*,



the traveller has first either to cross the Col de Sorebois, or to go round by Gremenz.

*Col de Sorebois* (9475 ft.). Crossing the stream at Zinal the path mounts, in zigzags, to rough upland pastures, which are traversed W. to the col, a little S. of the Corne de Sorebois. The col commands a magnificent view of the Weisshorn and neighbouring peaks, and is well worth passing by those who are not going to Evolena, but back to St. Luc.

The descent is steep, S.W. down a grassy alp to a point in the Val de Moiry, directly opposite the rough track of the Col de Torrent, 5½ hrs. from Evolena.

To pass round takes 2½ hrs.' descent to Gremenz, and 1½ hrs.' ascent of the wild Val de Moiry to the bridge where the route over the Col de Sorebois falls in, but a pedestrian may shorten the distance. He must not cross the stream to Ayer, but opposite that village seek a path which runs along a conduit through the forest to the Moiry valley. It is nearly on a level, and a pretty walk.

From Gremenz to Evolena there are three passes—*Col de Torrent*, *Pas de Lona*, and *Col de Bréonna*.

a. The *Col de Torrent* may be traversed in fine weather without a guide, a conspicuous chalet marking the point where the track leaves the Val de Moiry and ascends the mountain. Time, 5 or 6 hrs. After entering the Val de Moiry the path mounts through fine Alpine scenery to the wild and solitary upper valley. In 4 m. from Gremenz the chalets of *Zatelet Pratz* are reached (1¼ hr.), where a stone building on a knoll to the l. marks the foot of the Col de Sorebois leading hence to Zinal. The steep mountain on the rt. is here ascended, bearing to the l., with view of the *Glacier de Moiry*. There are numerous cattle-tracks, but keeping l. the traveller soon enters a green vale, and may see the cross on the col at its head. The usual rte. is high up on the N. side of this valley, passing N. of the

lonely *Lac Zozanne*, from which zigzags lead to the Col (2 hrs.). The view from this point (9594 ft.) of the dark mountains to the W., bold in their forms, delicately marked with lacework of snow, and with long sweeping glaciers winding amongst them, is most striking and beautiful. The black *Mt. Miné* separates the glaciers of *Ferpècle* and *Miné*; farther W. are *Mt. Collon*, *Pigne d'Arolla*, *Mt. Blanc de Seillon*, and *Grand Combin*. Directly N. rises the *Sasse-neire* (10,693 ft.), which can be ascended from the col in 1 hr.

The Col de Torrent was the scene of a murder on July 23, 1863. Herr Quensell, an Hanoverian lawyer of eminence, was the victim. The assassin was a well-known *mauvais sujet*, a Swiss Valaisan, who had once served in the Neapolitan army, and, having escaped from an imprisonment for forgery, had taken to the hills. Hearing that Herr Quensell was about to cross the pass with a single guide, he built a screen of stones by the side of the cross, and awaited them gun in hand. When they were twenty paces off the assassin began to fire. The guide fell severely wounded at once. Herr Quensell, also wounded, turned and ran down hill, but was pursued, overtaken, and shot. The murderer then remounted to the wounded guide, to despatch him, but was turned from his purpose by the man's entreaties. He even bound up his wounds, and helped him over the col, where he left him. Here some shepherds found him in a miserable state, and took him to Gremenz. The murderer was ultimately captured; but while being transferred to Berne, in charge of two old gendarmes, he made a sudden dash, and wholly escaped. The murderer and his brother were the only persons found implicated in the crime. The gendarmes were imprisoned for their carelessness.

The descent is down the broad and open alp of Cotter, by a well-marked track as far as a cattle-station (with

a cross). From this point a traveller bears l., and soon finds a good path, which reaches the Val d'Hérens about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the Inn at

**Evolena** (Rte. 131) (2 hrs.).

b. The *Pas de Lona*, about 10 hrs., lies N. of the Col de Torrent, between the Sasseneire and the Becs de Bosson. The path ascends from *Gremenz* (2 hrs.) in zigzags to the upper pastures, where it turns sharp to l., to get round the ridge descending from the Becs de Bosson. On the regular track a bare vale leads up to the Col ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., 8924 ft.), a wild and solitary spot, marked by a cross, and close under the *Becs de Bosson* (10,368 ft.). From this mountain, which may be climbed from the pass, there is a very fine N. and S. view. The descent leads to the village of **Eison**, on the mountain-side, high above the road of the Val d'Hérens, and thence, bearing l., through a gap in the precipices to the carriage-road in the Val d'Hérens, close to a little chapel,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the col, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. from Evolena.

c. The *Col de Bréonna* (9574 ft.), S. of the Col de Torrent, is a pass of about 10 hrs., and, being nearer the main chain, commands a much finer view of the Dent Blanche, Grand Cornier, &c. The path leaves the Val de Moiry near the glacier,  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. beyond the foot of the Col de Torrent, and is steep and rough to the Col, which lies N. of the *Couronne de Bréonna* (10,382 ft.), accessible from the pass. The descent by the Bréonna Alp is easy. The *Col du Zaté* immediately N., and the *Col de Couronne* immediately S., of the Col de Bréonna, are merely variations of it.

Much farther S. is the *Col de Moiry*, ascending from the Moiry Glacier (above the ice-fall) by rocks which are raked by falling stones. The descent on the other side, to the *Ferpècle Glacier*, is equally steep.

## ROUTE 131.

SION TO EVOLENA AND AROLLA—  
VAL D'HÉRENS. VAL D'HÉRÉ-  
MENCE.

Hrs.		Sion
$1\frac{1}{2}$	. . . . .	Vex
$1\frac{1}{2}$	. . . . .	Useigne
$2\frac{1}{2}$	. . . . .	Evolena
$3\frac{1}{2}$	. . . . .	Arolla
—		
9		

The inhabitants of this valley appear to be unusually well off, and their industry is shown by the height at which they cultivate their fields for corn.

There is a char-road to Evolena, along the W. side of the valley. Post carriage daily at 6 A.M., in  $5\frac{3}{4}$  hrs., returning from Evolena at 1 P.M.

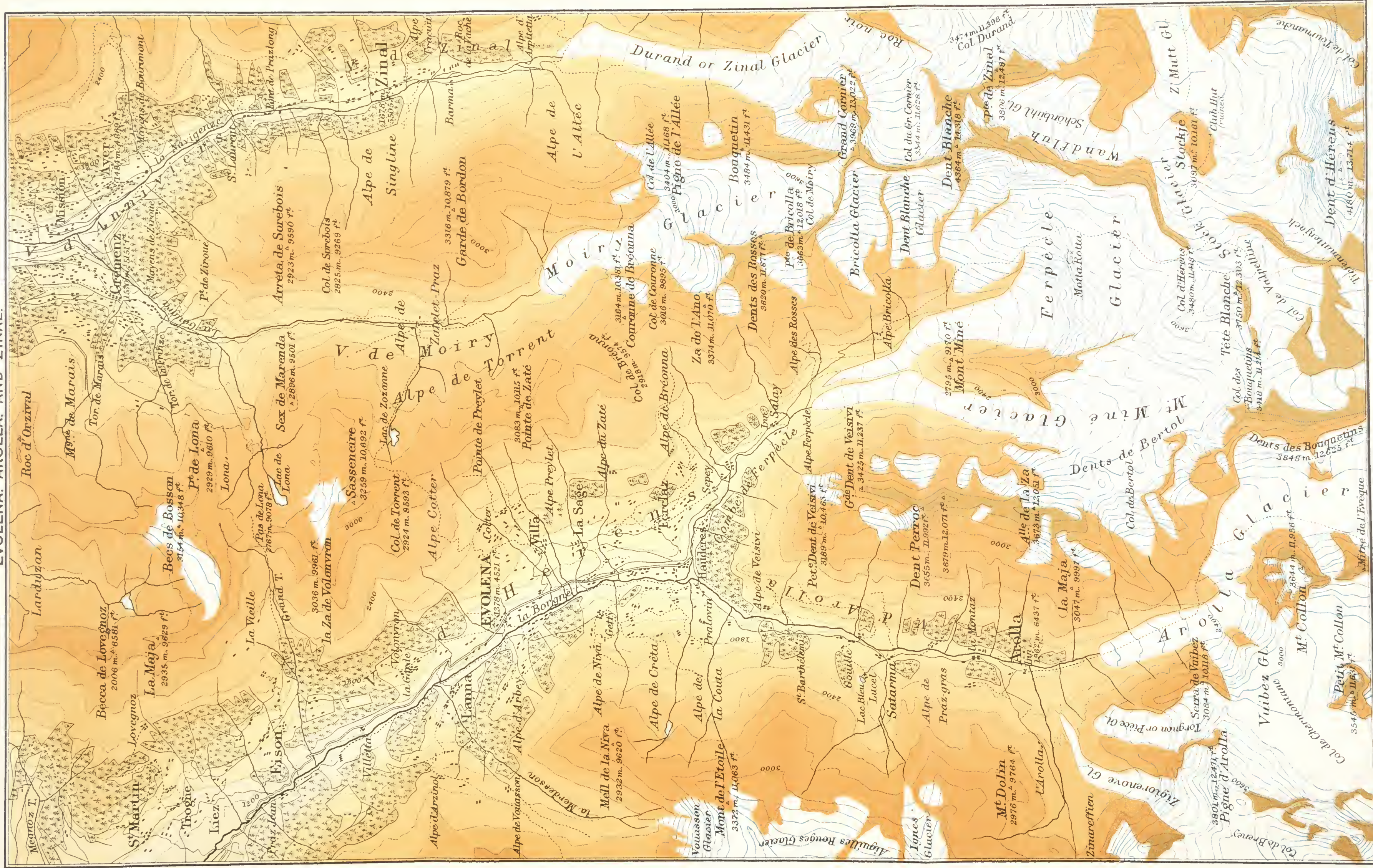
The road crosses the Rhone at Sion, and soon afterwards begins to ascend, keeping at a great height along the mountain slopes.

At a considerable height on the opposite side of the river is **Longeborgne**, a church and hermitage cut out of the rock, and inhabited by two hermits. The lower valley is thickly peopled, and fertile. In  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. the large village of Vex is passed. Soon afterwards the Val d'Héremence opens on the l.

[*Val d'Héremence* is a wild Alpine glen, some 15 m. ( $6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.) long, and contains in its upper portion many 'mayens,' but no permanent habitations. A char-road branches off at Vex. In 1 hr. the village of **Héremence** is reached. Thence a bridle-road passing through several hamlets, ascends in 3 hrs. to the mayens of Praz Long. [Hence the *Col de Meina* leads to Evolena in 5 hrs.] The valley grows wilder, and the ascent is in parts steep to the chalets of **La Barma** ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.). Passes to Fionnay in Val de Bagnes (Rte. 136). An hour more brings the traveller to the chalets of **Liappey** (rough quarters) at the head of the valley. It is closed by two glaciers, and several fine peaks rise above them.



EVOLENA, AROLLA, AND ZINAL.









The Glacier de Lendarey descends from Mt. Pleureur and the Glacier de Seilon from Mt. Blanc de Seilon. The passes over these are described in Rtes. 132 and 136. Owing to there being no *Inn* at the head of Val d'Héremence, mountaineers generally pass on by the Col de Riedmatten, or the Pas de Chèvres, or the Col de Darbonneire, to good quarters at Arolla, and the neighbouring peaks are climbed either from that place or Mauvoisin. The *Aiguilles Rouges d'Arolla* (11,975 ft.), the highest summits in the range between the Arolla glen and Val d'Héremence, are, perhaps, best attacked from the latter valley by means of the N. ridge].

Near Useigne, where the post halts, are some remarkable pillars of earth, or *Pyramides*, each topped by a flat stone, which by protecting the earth under it from the action of the rain has caused the phenomenon.

[ $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. further, at a bridge over the Borgne, a second road (a mule-path) from Sion by the E. side of the valley falls in. It is  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. longer, and passes through Bramois and Mage, and close to the hermitage of Longeborgne. The road is steep as far as St. Martin, after which it is tolerably level.]

There is a fine view from the Chapelle de la Garde,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from

**Evolena.** This village (4521 ft., 1121 Inhab.), about 16 m. from Sion, stands at the lower end of a long level reach of the Val d'Hérens, with a beautiful view embracing the pyramidal *Dents de Veisivi* (11,237 ft.) (which separate the glens leading to the glaciers of Ferpècle and Arolla), the upper part of the Ferpècle Glacier, and the summit of the *Dent Blanche*. It is a fine Alpine landscape, and the peasants give life to it. The women wear a straw hat, a brown or blue gown, black bodice and red kerchief, white sleeves and apron.

### Excursions.

*a. Ferpècle Glacier*, a ride of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., a walk of 2. The path does

not cross the stream at **Haudères** (at the junction of the Ferpècle and Arolla glens) but ascends the E. bank—that on the W. stopping short of the glacier. The track passes in view of beautiful slopes and forests, and through a rich vegetation, including the oriental plane, and the currant and rose-tree growing wild. The valley terminates in a gorge below the *Ferpècle Glacier*.

At the **Salay** chalets there is a well-kept mountain *Inn*, a good starting-point for excursions. To appreciate the noble scenery of the Ferpècle Glacier it is necessary to mount to the chalet of the *Bricolla Alp*,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. Immediately overhead rises the noble pyramid of the *Dent Blanche*; southwards spread the broad snow-fields leading to the Col d'Hérens. Below them the savage rocks of *Mont Miné* separate the glacier of that name from that of Ferpècle. The glacier view is remarkable for extent and beauty. The *Pointe de Bricolla* (12,018 ft.), a fine view point, is 5 hrs. from Ferpècle; the *Grand Cornier* (13,022 ft.),  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., difficult, guides required.

*b. The Pic d'Arzinol* (9846 ft.), W. of Evolena, in the ridge dividing Val d'Hérens and Val d'Héremence, can be ascended in 4 hrs. Mules can go for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. The great features of the view are the Matterhorn and *Dent Blanche*.

*c. A much higher point of the same range is the Pointe de Vouasson* (11,470 ft.), an expedition of 8 or 9 hrs. It commands one of the finest panoramic views in the whole district, and is well worth a visit. The descent may be varied by returning by the *Lac Bleu*, a charming little tarn in the Arolla valley, near Satarma. It may also be taken on the way to Arolla, by following an easy rte. skirting the base of the remarkable *Aiguilles Rouges* (11,975 ft.), and the lower end of the Glacier des Ignes, to the beautiful alp of Prazgras.

*d. The Couronne de Bréonna* (10,382 ft.), N. of the Col de Torrent, com-

mands a fine panoramic view. As the ascent is somewhat monotonous, this summit is best taken on the way to Val d'Anniviers.

e. The *Dent Blanche* (14,318 ft.), was first ascended, 1862, by Messrs. T. S. Kennedy and Wigram from the Bricolla Alp, in spite of driving mist and snow, and a temp. of 20 Fahr. No mountain in the Alps varies more in difficulty than this. Late in a fine season, when the W. rock face is bare of snow, it is comparatively easy. When the face is icy, it is one of the most laborious, formidable, and dangerous ascents known. It is now generally ascended from the direction of the Col d'Hérens by the S. ridge.

[For the passes from Evolena to Zermatt, Zinal, and Val d'Héremence, see also Rtes. 130 and 132.]

From Evolena it is a walk along a mule-track of about 9 m. ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.) to the inn at Arolla.

Looking back from the path to Haudères, the Diablerets, and its long sloping glacier of Zanfleuron, are seen beyond the valley of the Rhone. At **Haudères** ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m.), where the valley divides, the track crosses the stream from the Ferpèche Glacier, and rounding the foot of the *Pte. Dent de Veisivi*, enters the *Combe d'Arolla*, crossing its stream to the W. bank. A rapid ascent up the fir-woods brings the traveller to the *Chapel of St. Barthélemy* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m.), close to an enormous rock, one of many which have rolled down the mountain side. This is a romantic spot—a turfy knoll, surrounded by Arolla pines, and opposite the precipices of the *Dents de Veisivi* and *Dent Perroc*. On each side the valley is shut in by steep forest and rocks. Higher up, at the chalets of *Satarma*, it opens, and here, to the rt., are the *Cascade des Ignes* and the *Lac Bleu* (in *patois*, *Gouille Paï*). The scene grows wilder and the path less distinct on the approach to the *mayens* and

*Inn of Arolla* (6437 ft.). This house is the last in the valley, and

close to a waste of *débris* which extends for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the *Arolla Glacier*. The situation is striking. The view, from the inn door, of *Mont Collon* (11,956 ft.), filling up the vista of the Arolla Glacier (*L'Evêque*, 12,264 ft., is just seen to its rt.), is striking, though the peak appears much dwarfed. More to the rt. rises the snow dome of the *Pigne d'Arolla* (12,471 ft.), flanked on either side by massive precipices; while to the E., immediately above the hotel, the eye singles out from the jagged ridge of the *Grandes Dents* which lines the *Combe*, a sharp and slender point—the *Aiguille de la Za* (12,051 ft.). Another summit of the same ridge, the *Dent Perroc* (12,074 ft.), is seen more to the N.; and between the two may be noticed some gracefully curved strata in the gneiss rocks. The range of which the *Grandes Dents* form part is one of the most marked features of the district, separating the basin into which stream the various glaciers in the glen from the large snow-field which feeds the glaciers of Miné and Ferpèche. It runs N. from the *Dents des Bouquetins* (12,625 ft.), on the main watershed of the Alps, and includes in order the *Dents De Bertol*, *Grandes Dents* (Za and Perroc), and *Petites Dents*, or *Dents de Veisivi*, which form its northern termination. While few mountain inns have so many glaciers in their immediate proximity, a pleasing contrast to rock and ice is afforded by the graceful Arolla pines, which still characterise the locality to which they gave their name; and the glades in the remains of the forest above the hotel offer beautiful walks.

Arolla has become a favourite halting-place, and it is a centre for many excursions and glacier passes.

### Excursions.

Besides the *walks*, up the lower even portion of the Arolla Glacier, to the *Pas de Chèvres*, the dolomitic Mt. Dolin, the Cassierte, and the Roussette, by the beautiful Praz-



gras Alp to the Lac Bleu; the following *excursions* (with guides, rope, and *early start*) are recommended for active men as interesting and easy mountain excursions, combining a variety of fine views:—*a.* Ascend to *Col du Mt. Brulé*. *b.* Ascend to ridge of *Grandes Dents*, by rte. to Aig. de la Za (below), then along ridge to rt. to the *Pointe des Doves Blanches* (12,015 ft.). Descend easy S.E. arête to head of N. Glacier de Bertol. *c.* *Circuit of Mt. Collon*. From *Col de Pièce* or *de la Vuignette*, at the head of the *Pièce Glacier* (3½ hrs.) pass over snow plain between Petit Mt. Collon and L'Evêque to *Col de l'Evêque*, S. of the latter. Descend slightly N. of E. to *Col de Collon* (½ hr. from *Col de l'Evêque*).

### Ascents.

The *Pigne d'Arolla* (12,471 ft.), is to be preferred. It is one of the finest points of view in the Alps, and is easily reached by 2 rtes.

(1) By the *Glacier de Pièce* (shortest, 5-5½ hrs., best for several reasons for the *ascent*). By long sweeping moraines, not bad in ascent, to *Glacier de Pièce*. This is much crevassed. Ascend to the ridge (3½ hrs.) (*Col de Pièce* or *de la Vuignette*) at the head overlooking the snow plain between the *Vuibez* and *Hautemma* Glaciers, over which lies the *Col de Chermontane*. Skirt S.W. for a short way, and then ascend snow slopes direct to the top (about 1½ hr.).

(2) By *Glacier de Seilon* (about 6½ hrs. up, and 4, or less, down; best for the *descent*). Cross the *Pas de Chèvres* (2¼ hrs.), and after a short ascent up the *Seilon Glacier*, turning l. up loose rocks to the snow, a point is reached at the head of the *Glacier de Zigiorenove* (2 hrs.) [i. e. 'new chalets'] immediately S. of the *Zinareffian* rocks. [This point may also be reached from the *Arolla* side by these rocks; but without local guidance they have been found difficult.] Above this a slope of *névé* is climbed S. towards the *Col de Breney*, and then easy snow slopes lead E., and

finally N.E., to the summit. Here the traveller not only enjoys a view of nearly all the great peaks round *Zermatt*, and to the W. of it, but finds himself in the centre of 3 snowy ranges. He sees to the S. the long white line of the *Cogne* mountains, to the N. that of the *Oberland* and its continuation E. and W. Far to the N. is the distant blue of the *Jura*, and on the shoulder of the *Dent du Midi*, like a bead, a little bit of the *Lake of Geneva*.

An excellent view is obtained of the range separating the *Hautemma Glacier* and the *Valpelline*, conspicuous in which are the *Evêque* (12,264 ft.) and the *Bec de Blancien* (12,015 ft.). The sea of hills by the lower ends of the glaciers of *Hautemma* and *Breney* is peculiarly beautiful: the dark pyramid of the *Pte. d'Hautemma* filling up the gap of the *Col de Fenêtre* between the *Mt. Avril* (rt.) and the *Mt. Gelé* (l.), marks the S.W. end of the ridge separating the 2 glaciers, the other end being the *Pigne* itself. Between the *Pigne* and the still higher *Mt. Blanc de Seilon* (12,701 ft.) lie the *Cols de Breney* (nearest and l.) and *de la Serpentine*. The highest point of *Monte Rosa* is seen just to l. of the *Dt. d'Hérens*, *Mt. Blanc* to rt. of the *Gr. Combin*. (See panorama in *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii.)

The *Mont Collon* (11,956 ft.) is a more difficult climb, made by the N.W. or W. ridge above the *Vuibez* ice-fall, or direct from the *Arolla Glacier*. The *Evêque* (12,264 ft.) is best reached by its N.E. ridge.

*Pointe de Vouasson* (11,470 ft.). Easy. Much recommended. (See above.)

*Dents des Bouquetins* (12,625 ft.), the highest of the *Arolla* mountains. Harder than *Mont Collon*, but commanding finer views. From the *Col de Bertol* keep to rt. along base of the cliffs, strike up rocks obliquely before coming to *Col des Bouquetins*, and ascend by shoulder coming down from a point on the main ridge N. of summit. (1½ hr. from the *Col des*

Bouquetins.) It has been done in about 6 hrs. up and 5 down.

*Aiguille de la Za* (12,051 ft.). Easy, except final peak ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.), which requires a good head. The best route (safer than the gullies on either side) is to ascend directly above the hotel to a gap in Maja ridge above the *Glacier des Doves Blanches*. Skirt this, and ascend arête on S. side to ridge of *Grandes Dents S.* of the *Pointe des Doves Blanches* (12,015 ft.) above the arête: descend N.E. to nevé at foot of *Aiguille* (under 5 hrs.). Return by nevé and N. branch of *Bertol Glacier*.

*Mt. Brulé* (11,880 ft.), worth a visit for a view of remarkable beauty. It is ascended from the *Col de Collon*, and on the E., without much difficulty, from the *South Col du Mont Brulé*.

The *Aiguilles Rouges d'Arolla* (highest point 11,975 ft.) are said to afford the best climbing round Arolla, and have been reached from the N. (best route) E., and S.: but the *Dent Perroc* (12,074 ft.) is a long steep climb. The *Dents de Bertol* (11,667 ft.) are easily gained from the *Col de Bertol* by the W. face or N. ridge, and being thus very accessible are strongly recommended to all who do not venture on one of the more difficult climbs round Arolla. The view of the *Dent Blanche* is amazing. Either of the *Dents de Veisivi* is accessible from the direction of the *Col de Zarmine* (10,046 ft.), a gap between them by which the *Ferpècle Inn* may be gained in 5 hrs. from Arolla.

### Passes.

To Zermatt, see Rte. 133.

To the *Val de Bagnes*. a. By the *Col de Chermontane*, 9 hrs. from Arolla to Mauvoisin. The *Col* (10,119 ft.) is a plain of nevé, between the *Pigne d'Arolla* and the *Petit Mt. Collon* (11,631 ft.), which feeds the *Vuibez* and *Hautemma Glaciers*, and is easily gained by way of the *Col de Pièce* or *de la Vuignette* (see under *Pigne d'Arolla*). On the S.W., the long incline of the beautiful *Hautemma Glacier*, about 6 m. in length by  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. in breadth, with a

surface smooth and of unsullied whiteness, appears to be prolonged by the *Glacier de Fenêtre*, which rises to the *Col de Fenêtre*, between *Mont Avril*, N.W., and *Mt. Gelé*, S.E. Its E. ridge forms the Italian watershed. The descent lies along the glacier, with view of the *Combin*, and in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. reaches the alp and excellent new Club hut at *Chanrion* (8071 ft.). From this point to the little *Inn* at *Mauvoisin* is 3 hrs.

b. By the *Col de l'Evêque* (11,132 ft.) W. of *l'Evêque*, a circuitous but very interesting glacier route, 13 hrs. to *Mauvoisin*.

c. By the *Col de Seilon* and *Col de Gétroz*. The most direct way to *Mauvoisin*, and perfectly easy (6-6 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.). The path mounts to the chalets of *Arolla*, above which the slopes end in a low precipice overlooking the *Seilon Glacier* (2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.). Down this a very narrow shelving ledge forms the *Pas de Chèvres* (9354 ft.). This may be avoided by crossing the parallel *Col de Riedmatten* (9567 ft.), just to the N., and with a path by which mules descend into the *Val d'Héremence*. The way then lies S.W., up the W. branch of the *Glacier de Seilon*, to the *Col de Seilon* (10,663 ft., 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.), on the watershed between the valleys of *Bagnes* and *Héremence*, immediately N.W. of *Mont Blanc de Seilon* (12,701 ft.). This peak, higher than any of the *Arolla* mountains, may be easily ascended hence in 2-2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. [properly *Seilon* = in *patois*, *milkpail*, from the alp below, said to have been once so rich that every cow filled her milkpail]. The level nevé of the *Glacier de Gétroz* is then traversed (slightly N. of E.) to the ridge called the *Col de Gétroz*, just S. of the opening through which that glacier escapes in a long and steep ice-fall. The descent lies (rather l.) over steep shale and grass slopes to the chalets of *Gétroz*, whence is a path l., and then rt. below the cliffs to a bridge a little above *Mauvoisin*. The ice-fall (for the catastrophe caused by this glacier, see Rte. 136) is seen by a détour.



This pass and the Col de Collon are but little harder than the Théo-  
dule, but both involve more *crevasses*.

The older route turned l. from the Col de Seilon to the *Col du Mont Rouge* (10,962 ft.). The view is exceedingly fine. The descent is made to the small ice-field of Lyrerose, and then due W. from its lower portion to the Gétroz pastures, traversing which to the N. the previous route is rejoined near the chalets. The *Ruinette* (12,727 ft.) is best reached by its S.W. ridge, easily gained from the lower portion of the Lyrerose Glacier.

d. By *Col de Breney*, or the *Col de la Serpentine*. See Rte. 136.

## ROUTE 132.

AOSTA TO AROLLA, BY THE VAL-  
PELLINE AND COL DE COLLON—  
GLACIER PASSES FROM THE  
VALPELLINE.

Hrs.

	<b>Aosta.</b>
2½ . . . . .	<b>Valpelline</b>
1¾ . . . . .	<b>Oyace</b>
1½ . . . . .	<b>Bionaz</b>
3½ . . . . .	<b>Prarayen</b>
6½ . . . . .	<b>Arolla</b>

This is a fine expedition ; but the walk to Prarayen is long and tedious, and provisions should be taken for 2 days, there being no good *Inns* above Valpelline, where the carriage-road ends. The head of the Valpelline is wild and grand, closed by the fine ice-fall of the *Glacier de Za-de-zan* and the *Dent d'Hérens*. Those who cross from Arolla can return to the Val de Bagnes by the Col de Crête Sèche or the Col d'Oren (sometimes termed de la Reuse de l'Arolla), or go to Zermatt by the Col de Valpelline.

The road is same as that to the St. Bernard (Rte. 135) for a short distance as far as *Variney* ; it then crosses the St. Bernard branch of the river Buthier at a beautiful spot, and proceeds between fields to **Valpel-**  
**line** (2½ hrs.), a village with impor-

tant copper works. Here the mule-path to the V. de Bagnes by the Col de Fenêtre branches off (Rte. 136). The valley narrows, and the ascent becomes rapid. Several hamlets shaded by walnuts are passed before reaching **Oyace**, on a barrier of syenite (1 hr. 40 min.), whence the traveller reaches **Bionaz** (5250 ft.) in 1½ hr. Here the *curé* entertains travellers.

[The *Col de Crête Sèche*, 9475 ft., between *Mt. Gelé* and *La Ciardonnet*, is about 3 hrs. from Bionaz up the Verdecampe glen, by rocks and snow-slopes. The descent to the *Hautemma Glacier* is by the *Glacier de Crête Sèche*, which is much crevassed (2 hrs. down to Chanrion, 5 to Mauvoisin, in the Val de Bagnes). *Mont Gelé*, 11,539 ft., can be ascended from this col by the rocks l., the *Glacier de la Balme*, and snow to the top.]

In 3½ hrs. more the **Prarayen** chalets (6539 ft.) are reached (9¼ hrs. of rapid ascent from Aosta). There is a good horse-road. Here a small *Inn* has lately been opened, and is reported to afford fair quarters for not too exacting travellers. It is an admirable centre for exploring some of the least known ranges in the Pennine Alps, which enclose the Valpelline.

From this point the track to the Col de Collon lies up a wild lateral valley, the *Combe d'Oren*. It is nearly an hour's walk to the foot of the moraine. The *Glacier de Collon*, which is at the N.E. side of the valley, the Glacier and Col d'Oren being its head, has retreated a good half mile during the last fifty years. There are two routes to the upper plateau ; one over rocks, which is usually the preferable course, the other following the bottom of the valley to the foot of the glacier. This having been climbed, the traveller soon reaches a broad plain of névé, whence two or three long slopes lead to the *Col*, (10,270 ft. above the sea). To the l., on a crest of rocks, is a small iron cross, dated 1754. The precipices of *L'Evêque* (12,264 ft.) appear towards the l., with the short snow slope

leading to the *Col de l'Evêque*, S. of it, by which the Hautemma Glacier is reached.

The descent towards Arolla over the *Arolla Glacier* is easy. The broad level snow-field at the head of the glacier is known by the name of *Za-de-Zan* [*za* = the part of an alp where the pasturage is common]. Further down the *Mont Collon* (11,956 ft.) rises sheer from the ice in a dark wall, which returns a fine echo. Opposite is seen a grand feature of the pass—the triple *Dents des Bouquetins* (12,625 ft.), the highest of the Arolla mountains. The glacier sweeps boldly round the base of Mt. Collon, breaking in an ice-fall, where the descent lies down the moraine or ice on the l. bank. Opposite is the grand ice-fall of the *Vuibez Glacier*. The rest of the way to the foot of the Arolla Glacier,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the Inn at Arolla, is a level walk amid grand scenery. In front, over the Arolla pastures, appear the pointed *Aiguilles Rouges* (11,975 ft.). In a favourable state of the snow it takes 4 hrs. to ascend from Prarayen or Arolla,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to descend—total  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

The *S. Col du Mont Brulé* is an alternative but little-used route to Prarayen. The pass lies to the S. of the Mt. Brulé, and reaches the *Za-de-zan Gl.* below its great ice-fall.

From the head of the Valpelline many passes lead to the adjoining valleys. Several passes cross into the unfrequented Val de St. Barthélemy. The easiest is the *Col de Vessona* (8600 ft.), by which the village of *St. Barthélemy* 2 hrs. from Nus in Val d'Aosta, is reached in 5 hrs. from Oyace. Mountaineers will prefer the *Col de Lusency* passing to the W. of the beautiful *Bec de Lusency* (11,503 ft.) which can be climbed from the pass and commands a noble view. To the same valley lead the *Col de Montagnaia* from Puillaye, and the *Col de Livournéa* from Nouva, 2 hamlets in the Valpelline. To Valtournanche the *Col de Val Courrière* (Rte. 128) from Prarayen.

The *Col d'Oren* (sometimes called

*de la Reuse de l'Arolla*, 10,637 ft.) is a fine, easy and short ice-pass from Prarayen to the Val de Bagnes. The ascent lies through the *Combe d'Oren* to the W. of the Collon route. The final rocks are steep. The descent of the Hautemma Glacier is easy. 8 hrs. to Chanrion, or less to Arolla by the *Col de la Vuignette*.

The *Col de Valpelline*, a most useful and magnificent pass, discovered by Mr. Jacomb in 1860, leads from Prarayen to Zermatt in 10 hrs. (5 up, 5 down.) The ascent lies up the *Za-de-zan Glacier* as far as the ice-fall, and then N.E. by rocks and a couloir to the névé. The *Col* (11,687 ft.) lies just S. of the *Tête Blanche* (12,304 ft.), which Mr. Jacomb ascended by the way in 1 hr. [Bearing to the l. a traveller can cross the *Col des Bouquetins* to Evolena, over the ridge connecting the *Tête Blanche* with the *Dents des Bouquetins*, and by the *Ferpècle Glacier*; or can pass to Arolla by one of the *Cols du Mont Brulé*.] The descent to the Zmutt Glacier is by a slope of névé, the rte. joining that of the *Col d'Hérens* a little above the Stockje.

The *Dent d'Hérens* (13,715 ft.) was first climbed 1863 by an English party, by the *Za-de-zan Glacier* and S.W. arête. It is not a very easy expedition.

## ROUTE 133.

EVOLENA OR AROLLA TO ZERMATT.  
GLACIER PASSES.

a. The *Col d'Hérens* is a grand pass, over one of the noblest glaciers in the Alps, and with a near and commanding view of the Matterhorn. Principal Forbes crossed this pass in 1842. At that time it was little known, although tradition and early writers point to a time when it had been commonly used. For its full enjoyment 14 or 16 hrs. should be allowed, although the actual walking, when the snow is in good order, can be done in 11, or even less. The



journey may be shortened by sleeping at the new *Inn* at the foot of the Ferpèche Glacier, or at the Stockjehut when rebuilt.

A steep track, skirting precipices, leads from the foot of the glacier to the chalets of **Bricolla**, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Evolena. They are situated on a grassy shelf, several hundred feet above the glacier, and command a splendid view of the glittering snow-fields, of the jagged line of the Dents de Bertol and Grandes Dents, and of the Mt. Miné ridge, which extends to the Tête Blanche. From this point the traveller passes over heaps of débris for about 1 hr., and then across the lateral moraine to the glacier, which here breaks over a rock called the *Motta Rotta*. This at first is steep, but the upper snow-fields, under ordinary circumstances, present no difficulty, rising eastward in gentle slopes to an undulating line thrown out against the sky. This is part of a vast snow plateau falling from the shoulders of the Tête Blanche, and lying between the ridges which culminate respectively in the Dents des Bouquetins and the Dent Blanche. Passes lead from it in all directions, and it is notoriously perplexing in a mist: in bad weather one pass has been mistaken for another, and a night has even been passed on it in a snow-hut made by the guide. The level of the Zmutt Glacier is considerably lower than that of the Ferpèche, and from the snowy rim drop the precipices of the *Wandfluh*, which are so well seen from the Riffel, and form a ridge connecting the Dent Blanche with the Tête Blanche. The *Col* (11,418 ft.) lies towards its S.W. end, under the *Tête Blanche* (12,304 ft.). To the N. is the Dent Blanche; to the S.E. the Dent d'Hérens; but the grandest feature of the pass is the Matterhorn. It is barely 4 m. distant, and its long northern precipices and W. arête are seen in profile. To gain a more extensive prospect, a traveller may ascend, in about 1 hr., the *Tête Blanche*, on the rt., a grand point of view, and

one of the most easily accessible peaks in the Alps.

The descent from the col down a curtain of snow and black rocks, with often a bergschrund at the bottom, though steep, is not generally found difficult. Below it the Zmutt Glacier is considerably broken. Taking a wide sweep to avoid the crevasses, the track descends to the *Stockje*, a projecting island of rock, connected by a ridge with the Dent d'Hérens, and thus holding up this upper glacier. The way lies down the rocks, which are easy, and, for the most part, slopes of shale. A substantial two-roomed hut has been built on them by the Swiss Alpine Club ( $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr.), recently destroyed by an avalanche, but to be re-built. Below the *Stockje* the Zmutt Glacier begins to don that coat of moraine which so completely disguises it lower down. 'The stones,' says Forbes, 'come from many quarters, and with a prodigious volume.' Those from the *Stockje* are of a deep red colour. The traveller keeps to the glacier until the Matterhorn Glacier is left well behind. Then quitting the now disagreeable ground for the rt. bank he soon reaches the pine-woods and descends through the beautiful valley of Zmutt, in about 3 hrs., to

#### Zermatt (Rte. 128).

*b. Col de Bertol*, the ordinary pass from Arolla. The ascent lies up the glacier to a point a short way past the gorge of the Bertol torrent, and then, by a short scramble up steep shale and grass, more level ground is reached near the Plan de Bertol. The S. branch of the glacier is ascended to the *Col* (11,200 ft.), between two low summits in the range between the *Aiguille de la Za* (12,051 ft.), and the *Dents de Bertol* (11,667 ft.), the latter accessible from the col in 2 hrs. The pass is reached in  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4 hrs. from Arolla. The *Col d'Hérens* is not visible, lying just to the l. of the Matterhorn. From this col, to the rt. at first, in 2-2 $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. over the above-described plateau, the *Col d'Hérens* is reached. Time (easy),

about  $10\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., but the pass may be done in less.

The Col d'Hérens may be avoided by passing nearer the Tête Blanche. Descent by a snow slope to the route from the Col de Valpelline.

*c. N. Col du Mont Brulé.* This fine and useful pass, giving greater variety of views, takes 12 or 13 hrs. The ascent lies up the glacier of Arolla, and then l. over the large snow-field called Za de Zan. In 6 hrs. the N. Col du Mont Brulé (10,400 ft.) is reached. [Separated from this pass by a minor summit is the *S. Col du Mont Brulé*, approached by the above route from Arolla, but most convenient for a traveller going to Prarayen.] It commands magnificent views. The way then turns to the N.E., and falls into the route of the Col de Valpelline, near the top of that pass.

This pass is also connected with the Hautemma Glacier by the *Col de l'Evêque* (11,136 ft.), S. of L'Evêque, reached from the Col de Collon or after crossing the N. Col du Mont Brulé. There is thus a direct passage from Zermatt to Chermontane over nearly continuous and undulating snow-fields, and it may be made almost in ignorance that 4 separate watersheds are traversed.

Other ways have been forced across the glaciers, but these seem the preferable routes.

*d. Col de Collon* from Evolena to Aosta (Rte. 132).

## ROUTE 134.

TURIN TO AOSTA AND COURMAYEUR, BY IVREA—THE VAL D'AOSTA.

Eng. m.

			Turin
18			Chivasso
$38\frac{1}{2}$	} Rail	{	Ivrea
49			Pont St. Martin
$64\frac{3}{4}$			Châtillon
$80\frac{1}{4}$			Aosta
$101\frac{3}{4}$			Courmayeur

**Railway** from Turin to Aosta, to be continued to Courmayeur, 3 trains to Aosta daily in  $4\frac{1}{4}$ – $4\frac{3}{4}$  hrs. Diligence thence to Courmayeur 3 times daily in correspondence, in 5 hrs.

At (18 m.) **Chivasso Junct. Stat.**, a town of 9930 Inhab., the main line from Turin to Novara is left, and a branch goes to

$38\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Ivrea Stat.** is a large walled city of 10,413 Inhab. at the entrance of the Val d'Aosta. The approach to it is picturesque, across the deep bed of the Doire, which flows below the *Porte de Turin*. Here large markets are held, to which cheese and other pastoral produce of the Alps are brought. The town was a *depôt* for the iron formerly obtained near Cogne, and from other mines worked in the valley. It has some small *cotton-works*.

There is an interesting 14th cent. castle, degraded into a prison, and disfigured with modern windows, &c. The battlements and machicolations of two of its towers remain. These, and the walls, from many points of view, furnish good materials for the sketch-book. The small isolated hills scattered along the sides of the stream, and often crowned by some fragment of a wall of a feudal castle, are pretty features of a wooded landscape which has the Alps for background. It is of great antiquity, and mentioned by many ancient authors under the name of *Eporedia*. Strabo says that when the brave people of the Val d'Aosta were subdued, the unfortunate Salassi, made prisoners by Terentius Varro, were here sold as slaves by public auction to the number of 36,000. It has been a bishop's see since the 7th cent. The Marquis of Ivrea was in the Middle Ages a powerful potentate, his dominions passing in the 14th cent. to his neighbours the Counts of Savoy, who held the valley of Aosta as early as the 11th cent.

[W. of Ivrea is the opening of *Val Chiusella*, a picturesque valley with ravines and waterfalls. There is a



carriage-road as far as (20 m.) *Traversella* (poor *Inns*), whence passes lead over the mountains to Val de Champorcher.

E. lie the hospice of Graglia (3 hrs.), and Biella (3½ hrs.).]

The **Val d'Aosta** is one of the most beautiful valleys in the Alps. Yet between Ivrea and Courmayeur it has but few tolerable *Hotels* save at St. Vincent, Châtillon, and Aosta. The language of the valley is a Romance patois, as it has always been part of Burgundy across the Alps, and not of Piedmont. The best handbook to the valley and its side glens is, for all historical and architectural matters, Ratti and Casanova's *Guida Illustrata della Valle d'Aosta* (2nd edition, 1889), but Gorret and Bich's *Guide de la Vallée d'Aoste* (1876), though requiring to be used with caution, is still valuable for details as to the higher mountain excursions. For some of the lateral valleys, Vaccarone and Nigra's *Guida Itinerario per le Valli dell' Orco, di Soana, e di Chiussella* (1878), or vol. ii. part i, of Martelli and Vaccarone's very full and excellent *Guida delle Alpi Occidentali* (1889), will supply all requisite information.

The railway runs generally near the carriage-road, with stations at all the principal villages. The line passes through a long tunnel on leaving Ivrea, and crosses the Doire twice before reaching Pont St. Martin.

On leaving Ivrea on the rt. is a vast ridge of alluvium, the Monte Buono, which stretches into the plains. The road ascends on the left bank of the Doire, passes below the 15th cent. *Castle of Montalto*, well preserved and picturesque in form, and continues through the rich broad valley of the Doire—broad enough to constitute a part of the plain, for at (45¼ m.) **Settimo Vittone**, the ascent has been so gradual as scarcely to have been perceived. Nor is it, in fact, until the traveller reaches

49 m. **Pont St. Martin Stat.**

that he may be said to have entered this valley of the Alps. Here the Burgundian dialect gives place to Piedmontese.

The situation of Pont St. Martin, at the entrance of the Val de Lys, which runs up to Gressoney at the foot of the glaciers of the Lyskamm and Monte Rosa (Rte. 123), is strikingly fine.

The lofty arch spanning the Lys (about 20 yards higher than the new bridge) is one of the finest Roman works of its class in the valley: it now gives access to the Val de Lys, the road to Aosta being carried over a modern bridge. Above St. Martin are ruins of a large *Castle*.

After crossing the Lys, at a short distance from its confluence with the Doire, the line reaches

50¼ m. **Donnaz Stat.**, where a Roman work—a pierced rock—is passed through by the carr.-road, and near it is a Roman milestone cut in the rock, noting xxxvi. MP. A tolerable *wine* is grown here.

From Donnaz the road mounts high above the Doire (railway passes through tunnels) to

52¼ m. **Fort Bard Stat.**, celebrated for the check of 8 days which it gave to the advance of the French army under Buonaparte in 1800. At that time the road ran through the town under the fort. It was garrisoned by only 400 Austrians, yet such was the strength of the position that Buonaparte almost despaired of carrying it, and a few days more must have starved his army into a retreat. But this was averted by a skilful manœuvre. By placing a gun above the precipices of the Mont Albaredo, the French checked the battery which covered the approach to the town, and the army passed by night, dragging their cannon through the street laid with straw to prevent the noise alarming the garrison. Another gun was then raised to a belfry which commanded the gate of the fort; and the Austrians, fearing an assault, surren-

dered. Upon such slight occurrences the fate of Europe turned. As the French army would have devoured all the supply of the Val d'Aosta in a few days, it must have retreated, and the battle of Marengo, one of the most brilliant events in French history, would not have occurred. The fort has been greatly strengthened, and is now considered impregnable. The modern road goes round the rock, avoiding the steep and narrow street of Bard.

[L. opens out the valley of *Champorcher*, through which a path leads, by the village of **Pont Bozet**, to **Champorcher**, in  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., and thence by the *Col de Santanel* or the *Colle della Reale*, and the Val Soana to Ponte in Val d'Orco in 8 more (Rte. 146). From the chapel of *Notre Dame de la Neige*, at the head of the Champorcher valley, there is a path by the *Fenêtre de Champorcher* (Rte. 146) direct to *Cogne*, 10 hrs. from Fort Bard.]

The view looking back upon this fortress is a perfect picture, not to be surpassed in its kind.

Above Bard the main valley is narrow, and offers little variety in ascending by the deep and rapid course of the Doire to

$56\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Verrès Stat.**, situated at the entrance to the *Val Challant*, up which a char-road (unfinished) leads towards Brusson and the Val d'Ayas (Rte. 125).

The large square keep of the 14th cent. *Castle* overhangs the Val Challant. It is a picturesque object from below, and the view from it is worth a scramble. There is an Augustinian convent (founded in the 10th cent.). A short walk from the village is the fine 15th cent. *castle of Issogne*, restored by its present owner. It is well worth a visit, as it is the most important in the whole valley.

Above Verrès the valley widens, and the little plain of the Doire covered with sand and stone shows the occasional violence of the torrent.

Beyond Verrès the road enters a remarkable scene—a deep ravine, through which the Doire has wormed a way, or found in such a gulf its natural channel. The road ascends steeply l. of the river, and is cut out of the rock (rly. through many tunnels), in some places overhanging the foaming torrent. Above it are the ruins of the *Castle of St. Germain*, or *Mont Jovet*, placed so as to command the pass. Here is a fine iron railway bridge.

This road—called the pass of *Mont Jovet*—was made by the Romans originally, the Duke of Savoy, in 1771, constructing a new and even better one. The wine in its neighbourhood is celebrated. From the head of the pass the view down the valley is very striking. Towards the W. the finest part of the Val d'Aosta extends to the *Cité*, as Aosta is called.

Before arriving at St. Vincent, a singular bridge over the ravine is seen l. It is called the *Pont des Sarrasins*, and by antiquaries is recognised as a Roman work. From its parapet one of the most beautiful scenes in the valley is presented on looking towards Châtillon, including among its objects the *Château d'Ussel* and other ruins. Not far from this bridge is the village of

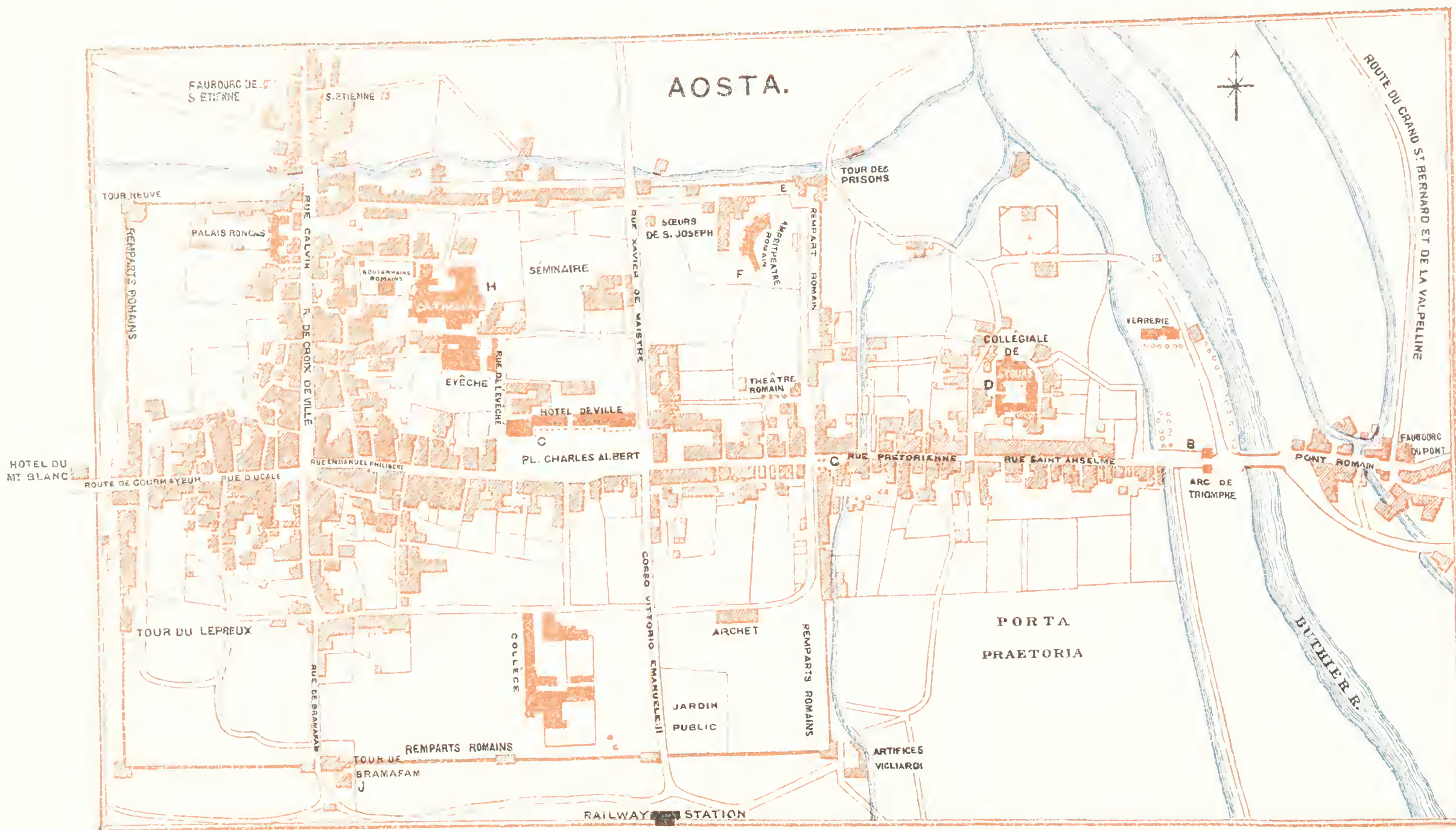
$63\frac{1}{4}$  m. **St. Vincent Stat.** Here is a *Bath-house*, supplied from a mineral spring in the chestnut forest above, on the path to the *Col de Jon*, Brusson, and Gressoney. Not far distant is the dirty but beautifully situated town of

$64\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Châtillon Stat.** (1808 ft.). The bridge (built 1766) over which the high road passes is a fine single arch, thrown across a deep gulf. From it are seen, further down the torrent, the remains of a *Roman bridge*, also a single, and still an entire, arch; and immediately over it another bridge, now superseded.

In the depth of the gulf, and a little up the stream, are forges, strangely placed there, for the sake of the water-power in working the







*London; John Murray, Albemarle Street.*



tilts; a wild path leads down to them, and the view of the bridges from the bottom of the ravine forms a striking scene.

In the 15th cent. castle of the Challant family (which, on its extinction in 1802, passed into the hands of the Counts Passerin) is a very rich library, including a magnificent illuminated missal executed in 1470.

[Here is the opening of the Val Tournanche and the road to the Col St. Théodule (Rte. 128).]

To see Châtillon and the beauties of its valley to advantage, a stranger should walk to a plateau on the opposite side of the Doire, where the ruins of *Château d'Ussel* (14th cent.) rise in the foreground.

Above Châtillon the same rich scenery prevails, interrupted here and there by traces of destruction, caused by torrents at times.

67 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Chambave Stat.**, celebrated for its wine, one of the richest in Piedmont. The vineyards of the Val d'Aosta have a great reputation, and are cultivated on the mountains to an elevation of 3000 ft. above the sea. Hemp, Indian corn, and fruit-trees fill the valley like a garden.

72 m. **Nus Stat.**, a poor village with the ruins of a château. At the entrance of the Val S. Barthélemy is the picturesque 14th cent. castle of *Fénis*.

[Several passes lead from the Val S. Barthélemy to the Valpelline. The least difficult is the *Col de Vessona* to Oyace (Rte. 132). An easy pass, called the *Fenêtre de St. Barthélemy*, goes from the village of the same name to Antey in Valtournanche. There is no *Inn* at S. Barthélemy, but the *curé* will receive strangers.]

Near (73 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.) **St. Marcel** are copper-mines, and the remarkable *Fontaine Bleue*, impregnated with copper.

On the approach to Aosta, above the (75 m.) **Quart-Villefranche Stat.**, the 12th cent. castle of *Quart* is seen high on the mountain side;

a path leads to it from near Villefranche, and down on the other side to Aosta, so that a visit requires no retracing of steps, and beautiful scenes are presented on the ascent and at the château. 5 m. further up the valley is

80 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Aosta Terminus** (1913 ft.), a city of 7376 Inhab.; of small importance in trade, wealth, or population, but attractive to a stranger. Its situation is most striking, in a deep, rich valley, surrounded by lofty and snow-capped mountains, which look down into its squares and streets. It stands at the foot of the Great St. Bernard, on the junction of the Buthier with the Doire. N. the snows of the Grand Combin, and W. those of the Rutor close the view. On the S. the crags of Mont Emilius and the Becca di Nona tower with startling abruptness above the valley. Aosta, the **Augusta Prætoria** of the Roman Itineraries, claims a high antiquity. It was the chief city of the Salassi, but its history earlier than its conquest by Terentius Varro, a general of Augustus, is not to be relied on. The Romans captured it 24 B.C., and reduced its inhabitants to subjection. Augustus rebuilt the city, gave it his own name, and a garrison of 3000 soldiers. The remains of large public buildings (theatre, amphitheatre, &c.) attest its importance at that time, and though much inferior in beauty and extent to many in the S. of France, they will be viewed with interest.

In the main street at the E. entrance of the town is a **Triumphal Arch**, in tolerable preservation, decorated with 10 Corinthian pillars, disfigured by a modern roof. It was erected in honour of Augustus, and is one of the finest of the remains.

About 200 yds. to the E. of the arch, in a narrow street, is a Roman bridge, which once spanned the Buthier, though now 100 yds. E. of it. It is buried to a considerable depth by soil. A conduit of water runs under it, and by its side a

path; so that you can walk under the arch, which is a fine piece of masonry. In the convent-garden of St. Joseph are the ruins of a **Basilica** or Prætorian palace, towers, walls, and fragments of unknown former appropriation, now serving only to perplex antiquaries. The plan of Aosta, like that of other Roman cities, was a square, and the chief streets crossed in the centre. The triumphal arch stood outside the town, in front of the chief gateway. This, the ancient Porta Prætoriana, now called **Porte de la Trinité**, is still in good preservation, though much of the casing of hewn stone has been removed. It has two façades, with a quadrangle, each façade composed of three arches—that in the centre being much the largest.

The **Roman walls**, flanked with mediæval towers, are most accessible, and in best preservation on the S. side of the town.

‘The district is, and always has been, a piece of Gaul on the Italian side of the Alps. . . . an outpost of Gaul within the bounds of Italy. . . It always showed a tendency to attach itself to the master of Burgundy rather than to the master of Italy. . . It belongs, in fact, to the same group of lands as Maurienne [Tarentaise], Vaud, Bresse, the Lower Valais, and the other dominions of the House of Savoy. . . Since the first rise of the Savoyard power in the 11th cent., Aosta has always been a cherished possession of the dynasty, and it still remains the last fragment of their once great Burgundian dominion on both sides of the Alps, on both sides of the Lemman Lake. . . We thus see why the speech of the vale of Aosta is not an Italian, but a Gaulish tongue. The old allegiance of the land was due not to the crown of Monza, but to the crown of Arles. . . And what is true of language is equally true of architecture. There is not a trace of Italian work in the buildings of Aosta, save only the towers with open arcades at the top,

which are seen in some of the greater houses. Otherwise every feature is Burgundian. The doors and windows of houses and churches are such as are nowhere seen in Italy, but such as may be found anywhere from Dijon to Constance. Indeed, to an eye long accustomed to Italian forms, it is a relief to see real mullions and mouldings. . . There is nothing that can be called street architecture. And the military works of mediæval times consist only of the round towers added to the Roman walls, picturesque, but nothing more.’—*Freeman*.

Of these the most remarkable are the **Tour de Bramafam** and **Tour du Lépreux**. The latter is the scene of Xavier de Maistre’s well-known tale, a real story, as the unfortunate man was secluded there from 1773 to his death in 1803, his sister predeceasing him in 1791.

Aosta has been a bishop’s see since the 4th cent.; St. Grat (bishop 452–470) is the patron of the diocese. On the N. of the main street is the **Cathedral Church** (SS. Grat and Jucundus), with its twin Romanesque towers. The woodwork of the stalls in the choir is of the end of the 15th cent. See in the *Choir* the very remarkable 14th or 15th cent. mosaics (wrongly described as Roman), the monuments of Count Thomas of Savoy (d. 1259), and of three bishops; and in the *Sacristy* antique plate, shrines, a diptych of the 5th cent., a 14th cent. Pontifical, and a 15th cent. missal. On the N. side of the ch. is a Romanesque cloister, built in 1460.

E. of the Cathedral is the interesting collegiate **Ch. of St. Ours**, with a picturesque campanile of the 13th cent., an old crypt under the choir, and fine carved stalls of 1500. On the S. side of the ch. is another 12th cent. Romanesque cloister of singular beauty and curiosity; the carving of the capitals is remarkable. Close by is the 15th cent. **Priory** (where the priors of St. Ours formerly dwelt), an elegant edifice in orna-



mented brick with an octagonal tower. The interior contains frescoes and wood carvings.

Aosta has been much improved since 1854, the chief square is enlarged, and there are many new and handsome buildings. In the **Hôtel de Ville**, the Italian Alpine Club has a room full of maps and books illustrating the neighbourhood, to which foreign travellers are welcomed.

**St. Anselm**, Archbishop of Canterbury (1093-1109), was born at Aosta about 1033. The house where he is said to have been born (4 Via Sant' Anselmo) is still shown, and the Antiquarian Society of Aosta, 'the Société Académique,' which is under his protection, is commonly called the 'Académie de Saint Anselme.' 'We are apt to look on Anselm as an Italian, and to be puzzled at the statement of his biographer that to him, a stranger in Italy, the heat of that land was oppressive. When we have seen his birthplace we better understand the words of Eadmer, and we grasp the fact that Anselm was in no sense a countryman of Lanfranc, but that he was, in a wide sense, a countryman of St. Hugh. It was the Imperial Burgundy which gave us alike the saint of Canterbury and the saint of Lincoln.' — *Freeman*. (For St. Hugh, 1135-1200, see Rte. 131 in HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE.) No better description of Aosta exists than that in the first chapter of Dean Church's admirable *Life of Saint Anselm*. A monument records the alleged flight of **Calvin** from Aosta in 1536.

**St. Bernard** of Menthon (11th cent.) whose name is associated with the mountain pass between the valleys of the Rhone and Doire, was archdeacon of Aosta; and his personal knowledge of the exposure and suffering incidental to a passage of the Alps, led to his establishment of the celebrated hospice, upon a permanent footing.

See for further information Ratti

and Casanova's guide, and an admirable paper in Mr. Freeman's *Historical and Architectural Sketches, chiefly Italian* (1876).

[The *Becca di Nona* (10,309 ft.) above Aosta, and nearly S. of it, commands a magnificent view of the Alps. The ascent can be made on mules in 6 hrs., the descent in 5 hrs. A hut has been lately built near the top.

After crossing the Doire the path mounts rapidly to **Charvensod**, whence Aosta is well seen, with Mont Vêlan and the Combin as background; soon afterwards Monte Rosa, and still later the Matterhorn, come into sight. From Charvensod the path lies for 2½ or 3 hrs. through beautiful woods and meadows, with clear streams and waterfalls, past the hermitage of St. Grat, the hamlet of Chamolé, and over a ridge to the alp of *Comboe* (belonging to the chapter of St. Ours), where the late Chanoine Carrel fitted up a chalet. Hence the path is good to the summit (10,309 ft.). From the topmost pastures the path may be easily lost, as it passes into the ravine between the Becca and Mont Emilius, as if the latter were the object; but it is well worth while to follow it, as the direct ascent, though shorter, is very hard work.

The view is glorious—the whole of the Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa ranges, together with the Vêlan, Combin, Dent Blanche, Weisshorn, and Mischabel; to the S., the Grand Paradis, Grivola, &c. The *Mont Emilius* (11,677 ft.), close at hand, cuts off the view towards Italy. A panoramic view and full account have been published by M. Carrel at Aosta. There is another way to *Comboe* (l. from Charvensod) by the glen of the *Dard*, which at the head of the valley leaps in a cascade into a little amphitheatre under the crags of the Becca. Pedestrians, in place of returning to Aosta, may cross the mountains by the *Col d'Arbole* (9300 ft.), to Cogne. It can be done by sleeping at *Comboe*, or, in 1

day from Aosta by starting early. (*Mont Emilius* lies considerably nearer the pass than the Becca di Nona, and a good walker will perhaps not greatly increase his labour by preferring the loftier summit (4 hrs. from Comboe). Its ascent presents no difficulties, but a local guide is desirable. The course to the col from the top of the Becca ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.) is about S., and the descent to the Cogne valley lies by the *Chalets d'Arpisson*, most beautifully situated, with commanding view of the Grivola. Nearer the *Mont Emilius* is the *Col de Garin* (10,479 ft.), whence Cogne is reached by the chalets and valley of Grauson. There are two lower passes from St. Grat to Cogne practicable for mules (see Rte. 146).]

The beautiful valley of Aosta is afflicted with cretinism and goitre more perhaps than any other in Piedmont. The peasantry are a squalid and filthy race, generally stunted and diseased. Of the whole population in the neighbourhood of Aosta, 1 in 50 is a cretin; and above half are more or less goitred. Some of these are horrid objects, with tumours as large as their heads appended to their throats.

The extreme dirt of the houses, villages, and persons of the peasantry would be sufficient to account for any amount of disease; but it is remarkable that in the spots they select these dreadful maladies seem to be capricious. At St. Vincent they prevail; at Châtillon, at Courmayeur, and at La Thuille they are almost unknown; at Ivrogne and Arvier they are most prevalent.

On leaving Aosta to ascend the valley, the rte. lies across the open plain, and through scenes of the greatest richness in vegetation. At  $3\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Aosta the road passes beneath the *Château de Sarre*, purchased by the late King of Italy, and filled with the antlers of the bouquetins slain by him; nearly opposite to it, on the other side of the

valley, is *Aymaville*, where the mule-road to Cogne begins (Rte. 146).

At (5 m.) **St. Pierre** there is one of the most picturesque châteaux in the valley, and a good view of the snowy ridge N. of the Grivola, particularly of the rock tower of the *Grd. Nomenon* (11,444 ft.). A fine scene is presented on the approach to Villeneuve, where the vast rock above the town is surrounded by the *Châtel d'Argent*, backed by the snowy Alps at the head of the Val Savaranche. About a mile from St. Pierre the road turns towards the river, which it crosses to reach the little town of

$6\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Villeneuve**, a dirty village with large iron-foundries. Near this the valleys of Savaranche and Rhêmes open together from the S. (Rtes. 147 and 147A). Above Villeneuve the valley narrows and becomes much more wooded, the walnut trees forming in some places almost a forest, especially near

**Arvier**,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. above Villeneuve. Here the vineyards are celebrated.

The torrent which flows into the Doire from the Val Grisanche on the S. is crossed (Rte. 148). The road now enters the defile of Avise, just after passing ( $9\frac{1}{4}$  m.) **Livrogne**. At the end of this gorge, Mont Blanc at the head of the valley closes the scene. The view is strikingly beautiful. The road, carried along the face of the precipice, crosses in some places deep rifts in the mountain side, then descends rapidly to the Doire, which it crosses, and thence continues on the l. bank to

**La Salle**, a dirty narrow village, in which, however, is preserved the name of the ancient people of this valley, the Salassi; many traces of its antiquity have been found in and around. On a hill near La Salle are the ruins of the 13th cent. *Castle of Châtelar*.

At the distance of a league beyond ( $16\frac{3}{4}$  m.) **Morgex** the diligence takes a branch road across the Doire to



19 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Pré St. Didier**, situated in beautiful meadows, and commanding a fine view of Mont Blanc. [Here the ascent to the Little St. Bernard begins (Rte. 149).]

Behind the village are some prettily-placed *baths*, much frequented by Italians during July and August. The building and avenue to it are pleasing. Beyond the baths a path leads to the mineral springs (temp. 92°) up a ravine which will remind the visitor of Pfäfers. Rugged precipices nearly close the cleft in the mountains down which the stream from the Rutor and Little St. Bernard forces its way.

Good carriage-roads from Pré St. Didier, about 3 m. of ascent, to

21 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Courmayeur**, situated at the head of the Val d'Aosta (which above Pré St. Didier is called the *Val d'Entrèves*), is a village, very beautifully situated, 4016 ft. above the sea, at some height above the Doire, and below the confluence of its two branches, which descend from the Col Ferret and the Col de la Seigne, along the S. side of Mont Blanc. To the W. is *Mont Chetif*, to the E. the *Mont de la Saxe*, while the *Aiguille du Géant*, and its glaciers, high above *Mont Fréty*, seem to close the valley. From Courmayeur the ascent to the Col du Géant can be traced, and the singular A. du Géant is conspicuous to the E. of the pass, but the summit of Mont Blanc is concealed by the Mont Chetif. Half an hour's walk, however, discloses the chain, from the 'Monarch' to the Grandes Jorasses.

Courmayeur is much resorted to in summer by invalids, for the sake of its mineral waters. The spring of La Victoire is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W.; its waters are impregnated with carbonic acid gas, sulphate of magnesia, and a little iron, and have a temperature of about 54°. The spring of La Marguerite varies a little in the proportions of its components, but its temperature is 12° higher. The Piedmontese place great reliance on the salutary effects

of these springs, and the resort to them brings together much agreeable Italian society. Of late years the Queen of Italy has spent part of several summers at the Hôtel Royal.

The baths of **La Saxe** are about 1 m. beyond Courmayeur, and somewhat rough.

Club huts have been erected by the Italian Alpine Club on the Col du Géant on the Grandes Jorasses and at the foot of the A. de Triolet; and also halfway up Mont Blanc.

### Excursions.

*a. Ascent of the Crammont.*—An excursion which no visitor to Courmayeur should fail to make if the weather be favourable, for few spots in the Alps will afford him so fine a view of Mont Blanc, or a more glorious panorama. A hut near the summit enables those who desire it to witness the effects of morning and evening on the panorama of peaks.

For riders it is first necessary to go to Pré St. Didier, 1 hr. (pedestrians may take a shady path on the rt. bank), then ascend by the Little St. Bernard road (Rte. 149) for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to a path which strikes to the rt. among the larches, and mounts through them past several clusters of chalets for about 2 hrs. Mules cannot go beyond the wood, and must be left, and from this point there is about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s. climb to the summit: total 4 hrs. from Courmayeur. There is a more direct but difficult path for pedestrians up the Courmayeur face, for which a local guide is requisite.

The highest point, 8980 ft., is the outer edge of a large slab or flat mass of rock, sloping at an angle of 20° towards the S.; the upper end of this mass actually overhangs the rocks below, so that a stone dropped from it would fall perpendicularly hundreds of feet, and then striking the precipitous sides of the mountain, would bound into the abyss beneath.

From this point the whole of the enormous chain of Mont Blanc is open to the observer: from the peaks which bound the Col de la Seigne to those above the Col Ferret every aiguille and glacier in this line of nearly 20 m. is seen, within an angle of  $150^{\circ}$ . The depths of the Allée Blanche are concealed by some low intervening mountains, which may be considered the western bases of the Crammont.

Towards the E. the Val d'Aosta forms a beautiful vista. The mountains which bound it sweep down to the Doire, and leave between them the channels which are the courses of its affluents. In the valley the Doire appears like a thread of silver. Farther to the E. are the summits of Monte Rosa and the Matterhorn. Looking S.E., directly down the line of ascent to the Crammont, the Camp of Prince Thomas, and the table-land above the precipices of the valley of La Thuille, appear to be immediately beneath. Above and beyond them lies the enormous ice-field of the Rutor, one of the finest objects in view: and beyond it are the glaciers at the head of the valleys of Rhêmes, and Grisanche, with the Grivola and Grand Paradis towering above them.

Towards the S. is the pass and plain of the Little St. Bernard.

Towards the Great St. Bernard the course may be traced of the pass of Serena from Morgex to St. Rémy. The hospice is not visible, but the Mont Vélan and Grand Combin are seen beyond it.

De Saussure thus records his second visit to the Crammont in 1778:—‘Nous passâmes trois heures sur ce sommet; j’y en avois aussi passé trois dans mon premier voyage [1774]; et ces six heures sont certainement celles de ma vie dans lesquelles j’ai goûté les plus grands plaisirs que puissent donner la contemplation et l’étude de la nature.’

The traveller who proposes to make a visit to the Crammont a part of his day’s journey to Bourg

St. Maurice, should start very early, and direct that the mules, if he take any, should, from where he left them, be sent across the pastures to chalets which lie in his way to Balme. He will thus gain time in ascending the valley, though the descent to the hamlet of Elevaz, down a steep and rugged path over loose stones, is fatiguing. Balme is on the Little St. Bernard road, about an hour’s walk above the spot at which the track turns up towards the Crammont; and there is no object of interest missed between the two places. The name Cramont (or Crammont) is probably, as elsewhere in the Alps, a corruption from Grand Mont. It has been connected with the *Cremonis jugum* of the MSS. of Livy, which itself, however, is probably a copyist’s error for ‘Ceutronum.’

b. To the Col de Chécruit or Chécouri, highly to be recommended on account of the splendid and uninterrupted view of the chain of Mt. Blanc and the Allée Blanche. It lies due W. of Courmayeur, and may be made on a mule (2 hrs. to the col). Cross the Doire, pass through the village of Dollone, and along the N. side of the ravine for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Courmayeur; then the path ascends the side by a series of steep zigzags past a little oratory on a rock (1 hr.); up slopes of grass, a narrow stony path, and then pastures, in another hr. to the col. 6431 ft. The best view is obtained from a rocky eminence on the rt. No guide is necessary. [A footpath, not easy to find, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. below the col, leads in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. up the Mt. Chetif, also called Mont Dollone, and Pain de Sucre (7687 ft.), commanding a remarkably fine view of the tremendous precipices of Mont Blanc and the deep valley beneath, but not equal as a panorama to that from the Crammont.] Instead of descending at once through the pine-forest into the Allée Blanche, it will well repay the traveller to keep along the slope of the moun-



tain until he arrives above the Lac de Combal (Rte. 139), then descending to the lake. He thus gains a complete view of the valley, of Mont Blanc and the Glacier de Miage. For the latter part of the excursion, however, a guide is advisable. From the Lac de Combal the return to Courmayeur, by the Allée Blanche, takes  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

c. The *Mont de la Saxe*, N.E. of Courmayeur, is easily accessible ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.), and commands a glorious near view of Mont Blanc, and a prospect in some respects finer than that from the Crammont, but less panoramic; the Rutor, and the peaks of the Cogne range are well seen. After passing the baths of La Saxe, the track to the rt., leading into the Val Ferret, is followed for a short distance, and then the ascent begins by an easy path, which gradually reaches the summit; this is a sort of undulating plateau, in which no single point much overlooks the rest. The finest view is from a point at the E. end of the range, called *Trossé Blanc*, or *Tête de la Tronche* (8455 ft.). A shorter path starts from the church at Courmayeur.

Another commanding point for Mt. Blanc lies just E. of Courmayeur, opposite the Mt. Chetif. This is the *Col de Sapin*, or *de Chapy*, reached in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. by ascending the little valley of Chapy, between the Mts. de la Saxe and Cormet; the view from the latter is magnificent. The descent may be made on the E. side of the Mt. de la Saxe to the Val Ferret. By way of this col a high rte. has been made to the Great St. Bernard in  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Courmayeur. It passes on the rt. the *Grande Rochère* (10,912 ft.); and 3 ridges by the *Col d'Arterêva*, or *Malatra* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.), *Col de Bellecombe* ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.), and *Col de St. Rémy* (1 hr. 20 m.). Another rte. is by Morgex and the *Col Serena* (Rte. 137c). For nearly the whole distance the chain of Mt. Blanc is full in view. The *Grande Rochère*, which commands an extremely fine view,

may best be reached from Courmayeur by gaining the head of the Chambave glen from the Col de Chapy, and then mounting a steep gully or a snowy ridge (8 hrs. up).

d. Few excursions in the Alps are more interesting than that to the upper portion of the *Glacier de la Brenva*; but, since its retreat, the ordinary tourist will gain little but a stony walk by visiting its lower extremity. Good walkers, with a guide, may penetrate, by a steep ascent on the E. flank of the ice, to the level of the upper ice-fall under the Aiguille de Péteret and Mont Blanc, one of the most majestic scenes in the Alps. It is possible, and not very difficult, to ascend from this point the peak of the *Tour Ronde*, (12,386 ft.), descending by the nevê of the Glacier du Géant to the hut on that pass or the Mont Fréty Inn—a noble excursion for competent mountaineers.

e. The Inn on the *Mont Fréty* (7130 ft.),  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Courmayeur, at the southern base of the *Col du Géant* (Rte. 142), opens every summer on the 1st July. Hence a mountaineer of moderate experience will find no difficulty in reaching alone the summit of the col,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., which is interesting as well for the magnificent view which it commands as for its associations with the history of Alpine adventure since the time of De Saussure. The steep slope above the Inn was in 1860 the scene of a sad accident (see Rte. 142), wherein 3 English travellers and one of their guides—Frédéric Tairraz, of Chamonix—were lost. From the col there is a most glorious view of glaciers and mountain chains to the S. and E., among which the Grand Paradis and Monte Rosa rise with imposing effect. A substantial hut has been erected on the pass, where the night may be spent without serious discomfort.

f. Another fine excursion is by the Allée Blanche to the *Glacier de Miage*, ascending it some way, for a view of the ice-cascades at its head. This

glacier is on a grand scale, and has 2 important tributaries—the *Glacier du Mt. Blanc* and *Glacier du Dôme*. Over it lies the pass of the *Col de Miage* (11,077 ft.) (Rte. 142), and by the *Glacier du Mont Blanc* is the easiest way up *Mont Blanc* from the Italian side. At its lower end is a grassy oasis called the *Jardin de Miage*, a pleasant excursion of 3 hrs. from Courmayeur.

*g. Mont Blanc* was first climbed from the Courmayeur side via the *Col du Géant*. The ascent was facilitated by a hut under the *Aig. du Midi*, but this is now little better than a ruin. From the spot where it stands, the Corridor can be reached in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., by the *Mont Blanc du Tacul* and *Mont Maudit*. This was the rte. by which Messrs. Hudson and Kennedy first attempted, 1855, without guides, to scale the mountain, and by which it was reached in 1863 by MM. Maquelin and Briquet, of Geneva.

This route is now seldom used. The problem of a direct ascent by one of the great southern glaciers was first solved in 1865 by Messrs. G. S. Mathews, A. W. Moore, Frank and Horace Walker. Leaving a bivouac 5 hrs. above Courmayeur by the side of the *Brenva Glacier*, they came in 3 hrs. to the foot of a buttress of *Mont Blanc*; climbing this, and passing over an extremely narrow crest, they reached the steep slopes of the *nevé*, which led up to the Corridor. The summit of the Corridor was thus reached in  $10\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from their sleeping-place. By bearing more to the left, the top of the *Mur de la Côte* might have been gained. This is a very difficult ascent, and has been but twice repeated. To attempt the descent would be in the highest degree perilous.

A route which, though totally different in character to that from Chamonix, may from its freedom from any extraordinary risk or difficulty fairly be considered a rival for the favour of climbers, was at last discovered by Mr. Kennedy in 1872. A

comfortable wooden hut, called the 'Rifugio Quintino Sella,' after the late distinguished statesman and President of the Italian Alpine Club, has been erected on the rocks high above the E. side of the *Miage Glacier* (11,812 ft.), 8 hrs. from Courmayeur. The key is kept by the *Guide-chef*. From this point the summit of *Mont Blanc* may be reached in 8 hrs. In contrast to the Chamonix rte., which is throughout a walk up snow, this is a sharp rock climb, but in fair weather it presents no very serious difficulties or dangers, and with good guides is safe as a descent. It is not, however, fit for persons without considerable experience in mountain climbing.

Between the *Brenva* and *Miage* Glaciers lie the two small glaciers of *Brouillard* and *Fresnay*, and above them the face of *Mont Blanc* rises in a precipice which has been found inaccessible. In 1877 Mr. Eccles, having reached the head of the *Fresnay Glacier* from the *Brouillard Glacier*, gained the S.E. ridge of *Mont Blanc* which falls towards the *Péteret*, and by dint of a good deal of step-cutting followed it to the *Mont Blanc de Courmayeur*, and so reached the top of *Mont Blanc*. This is a difficult ascent, but not apparently dangerous, with good guides and a competent party.

*h.* The W. peak of the *Grandes Jorasses* was ascended in 1865 from *Val Ferret* by Mr. Whymper. The slightly higher E. peak (13,797 ft.), was gained in 1868 by Mr. H. Walker. This is a very fine expedition for capable climbers: its difficulty varies greatly according to the season. The view is one of the finest in the whole chain of the Alps. A hut has been built to facilitate the ascent.

*i.* The *Aiguille de Péteret* (12,392 ft.), the flame-like pinnacle so conspicuous from the *Allée Blanche*, was climbed in 1877 by Lord Wentworth. It is a severe rock-climb, fit only for practised cragsmen.

*j.* The *A. Blanche de Péteret* (13,478 ft.), on which Professor F. M. Bal-



four and his guide were killed in 1882, was first climbed in 1885 by Mr. H. S. King.

k. The *Grand Paradis* (13,324 ft.) is sometimes climbed in 2 days from Courmayeur by way of the Val Savaranche.

l. The *Rutor* (11,438 ft.) can be reached in 2 days either by La Thuille or by the Val Grisanche.

Besides glacier passes (Rte. 142), 5 rtes. diverge from Courmayeur: 1. to Aosta; 2. the Great St. Bernard (Rte. 137); 3. the Little St. Bernard (Rte. 149); 4. the Col de la Seigne to Chamonix (Rte. 139); 5. the Col Ferret to Martigny (Rte. 137).

## ROUTE 135.

### MARTIGNY TO AOSTA.—PASS OF THE GREAT ST. BERNARD.

Hrs.		Martigny
$\frac{1}{2}$	. .	Bourg
$2\frac{1}{2}$	. .	Sembrancher
$1\frac{1}{4}$	. .	Orsières
$1\frac{1}{2}$	. .	Liddes
$1\frac{1}{4}$	. .	Bourg St. Pierre
$3\frac{1}{2}$	. .	Hospice
$1\frac{1}{2}$	. .	St. Rémy
$1\frac{1}{4}$	. .	St. Oyen
$3\frac{1}{2}$	. .	Aosta

Distance, 47 m.; 11 hrs.' walk to the Hospice; about 6 hrs. thence to Aosta. Carriage-road to the Cantine de Proz, and from St. Rémy to Aosta. Light carriages have been taken over the pass, and the carriage-road across from the Cantine de Proz is in active construction. Diligence in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to Orsières.

This pass is more remarkable from a religious, historical, and romantic point of view—on account of its Hospice and dogs—than for its scenery, which is inferior to that on most of the other great passes. The *Antonine Itinerary*, and the *Peutinger Table* (both 4th cent.) mention this

pass, which, between 774 and 1414, was crossed 20 times by the mediæval Emperors (including Charlemagne), and largely frequented by clerics and pilgrims bound to Rome. Its old name is *Mons Jovis* (Mont Joux), and it was only in the 12th cent. that it acquired its present style from the second founder of the Hospice on the summit. Buonaparte crossed it on the 20th May, 1800. Each regiment occupied 3 days in the passage, arriving the first night at Bourg St. Pierre, the second at St. Rémy or Etroubles, the third at Aosta.

From **Martigny-Ville** (1562 ft.) (Rte. 56) the road passes through Martigny-Bourg, and shortly after crosses the Dranse to its l. bank. The bed of this river still exhibits evidence of the devastation occasioned in 1818 by the bursting of a lake in the Bagnes valley (see Rte. 136).

The road leaves that to Chamonix on the rt., and continues up the valley of the Dranse to the miserable village of *Les Valettes*.

[Hence a char-road ( $1\frac{1}{4}$  m.) leads to the **Gorges du Durnand**, worth a visit, a narrow defile with fourteen waterfalls, rendered accessible by wooden galleries (1 fr.). There is a *Restaurant* at the entrance. Passing through this gorge, a track leads up to the path from Les Valettes or Bovernier to the pretty wooded *Val de Champex*, which offers the pedestrian a pleasanter though longer rte. than the high road to Orsières, about 4 hrs. from Les Valettes (see below).]

Beyond Bovernier the river is re-crossed, and the road enters a defile so narrow that it was necessary to cut a *Tunnel* 200 ft. long through the rock. Emerging from it, the traveller sees l. the ruins of a building connected with abandoned iron-works, which was occupied 1797-8 by some Trappist monks and nuns, and was overwhelmed with rubbish brought down by the bursting of the lake, 1818. Bovernier was saved from the same fate by a projecting

rock. The road recrosses the river, and ascends on the l. bank to

9 m. **Sembrancher**, a larger village, under *Catogne*, at the confluence of the two rivers Dranse, coming from the Val de Bagnes and the Val d'Entremont and St. Bernard.

Above Sembrancher the Val d'Entremont offers some fine scenes, but none strikingly grand; it has the general character of an Alpine valley. The Dranse is twice crossed before reaching

13 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Orsières** (2920 ft.). [Here the Val de Ferret, leading to Courmayeur by the Col Ferret (Rte. 137), opens into the Val d'Entremont on the rt. For the high level rte. to the Cantine de Proz by the *Mourin*, see below under the excursions from the Hospice. 4 hrs. from Orsières or Champex is the *Cabane d'Orny* (Club hut), whence many climbs may be made. The easiest glacier pass to Chamonix is the *Col du Tour* (Rte. 142).

[From Orsières to Chamonix there is a pleasant mule-path to the Forclaz (Rte. 141) by the valley and lake of **Champex** (4807 ft.), lying to the W. of Mont Catogne. The lake is said to be well stocked with fish. It is most beautifully situated amidst forests, and has the Grand Combin in full view, the snowy peaks of which are reflected in its glassy waters. On its shores are several *Inns* and *Pensions*. The lake can be reached over a low ridge in 3 hrs. from Les Valettes, and Orsières is an hour further. The lake, embosomed amidst splendid forests, and its surroundings, are among the loveliest scenes in Switzerland, and deserve to be better known to English travellers. The *Catogne*, (8402 ft.), may be reached hence in 4 or 5 hrs., while the Arpette glen gives access to Trient in 4 or 5 hrs., and affords many climbs and excursions. 4 or 5 hrs. to the Forclaz; 7 hrs. to the Tête Noire Inn.]

Beyond Orsières there is a fine

view, and the scenery becomes rather more wild. The torrent can seldom be seen in the deep gorge, and the road mounts rapidly in zigzags.

4 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Liddes**, 4390 ft. above the sea.

3 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Bourg St. Pierre** is a dirty, wretched village, 5358 ft. Rt. is an easy pass of 4 hrs. to the chalets of Ferret by the *Col des Planards*, 9197 ft., at the head of the small Val des Planards.

The church dates from the 11th cent., and has a fine carillon of bells. An inscription recording the ravages of an *Ismaelita cohors* in the 10th cent. exists in the church. Between A.D. 890 and 973 the western Alpine passes were infested by bands of Saracenic freebooters from Fraxinetum, a stronghold on the coast of Provence, near Fréjus. In 940 they crossed the St. Bernard and burnt the monastery of St. Maurice. In 973, St. Majolus, Abbot of Cluny, was taken prisoner at the bridge of Orsières, and ransomed for a large sum.

The points called *Le Mourin* (9085 ft.), to the W. of Bourg Saint Pierre, and the *Croix de Tzouss* (9285 ft.), to the S., may be gained without difficulty in 3 hrs., and command glorious views. From the former it is possible to descend to the Cantine de Proz or to Orsières.

The brothers Balley, of Bourg St. Pierre, in 1858, discovered the route from this place to the summit of the Grand Combin by the Col des Maisons Blanches. [L. is the *Valsorey*, up which lies the rte. to Mauvoisin by the *Col des Maisons Blanches* (Rte. 136), to Chanrion by the *Col du Sonadon* (Rte. 136), to the top of *Mt. Vêlan* (see below) and that of the *Grand Combin* (Rte. 136). At the head of the Valsorey glacier, nearly due S., lies the *Col de Valsorey* or *des Chamois*, an easy glacier pass (5 hrs. from Bourg St. Pierre); leading to *Val d'Ollomont*, and in about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the Col to Valpelline (Rte. 132).]



On leaving Bourg St. Pierre the road crosses a deep abyss, through which the Dranse forces its way. (On the l. the torrent, descending from the Valsorey Glacier, forms a magnificent cascade.) It then passes round the foot of a great mound, on which is the garden of Alpine plants belonging to the Genevese 'Association Internationale pour la Protection des Plantes Alpines,' and called *La Linnaea* (admittance 50 cents.).

The old path led through the forest of St. Pierre, among rocks and roots of pines, and was so steep and tortuous that Napoleon's difficulties in transporting his artillery were here, perhaps, the greatest that he encountered on the pass from natural obstacles. The present road, cut along the precipices which overhang the deep course of the Dranse, avoids the steep rises and falls, and leads by an easy ascent through a savage defile.

Beyond the forest, where the pines are stunted from their elevation above the level of the sea, the traveller arrives at some pastures on which there are many chalets. This is the plain of Proz, where amidst the shelter of surrounding mountains, numerous herds gather the rich herbage. The char-road ceases about 2 hrs. below the Hospice at

$3\frac{1}{2}$  m. The little *Inn* (rather rough) called the **Cantine de Proz**, 5912 ft. [Hence the ascent of *Mt. Vêlan* (12,353 ft.), can be made in 10 hrs. 6 hrs. up.

This mountain was first ascended in 1779 by M. Murith, prior of the Great St. Bernard. The first part of the ascent (guide 25 fr.) is up the pastures of the *Montagne de Proz*, on the N. bank of the torrent, and by steep, stony slopes to the *Glacier de Proz*. This is traversed to the bergschrund at its head in 1 hr., or about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the Cantine. Here the main mass of the Vêlan is reached, which rises in a wall of rock, over 2000 ft. high. It is not difficult, and may be climbed by any one of numerous buttresses. The top

is a saddle-shaped plain of snow, perhaps  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. in length, and being situated between Mt. Blanc and Mte. Rosa, and close to the Grand Combin, commands an exceedingly fine view. It is better to descend by the glacier and valley of *Valsorey* to Bourg St. Pierre. This will take from 4 to 5 hrs., and, for the exquisite beauty of the glacier itself, and grandeur of the near scenery—it does not command distant views—the rte. is scarcely to be surpassed in the Alps. The descent for some way is along the crest of rocks which bounds the glacier of *Valsorey* on the side of Italy, and very steep. At the junction of the *Glacier du Tzeudet* formerly existed the little lake of *Goille à Vassu*, described by De Saussure. Those bound for Aosta may descend as they came, and cross the *Col de Mouleina* or *d'Annibal* (9859 ft.), at the head of the *Proz Glacier*. A more direct descent on the S. side has been effected to *Etroubles*, and one on the E. side to the *Val d'Ollomont*. A more direct rte. to *Etroubles* from the *Cantine de Proz* is the *Col de Menouve*, (9062 ft.), 7 hrs.]

On rising above the plain of Proz the path to the Hospice enters another defile, and beyond it another summer pasturage, steep and rugged; the scene becomes more sterile and dreary, another ravine is passed, and the summit is approached. Near the path is a cairn, under which are buried the bodies of some workmen killed Nov. 19, 1874, by a 'veurra,' or whirlwind raising the snow in a sort of frozen waterspout. A little higher up, an inscription records the fate of two canons and a 'maronnier,' or lay brother, who perished at the same time. At length, after crossing some beds of snow, the solitary walls of the

$5\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Hospice** appear, and the traveller reaches, on the very crest of the pass, this dwelling in the clouds, 8111 English feet above the sea.

Here, in the practice of the most

during the winter, are in November, February, March, and April. As many as 2000 per month will pass in February and March, because the poor inhabitants of the valleys are then going out to seek work; in November they come home with money in their pockets.

'A column opposite the middle of the lake marks the boundary of Piedmont and the Valais; above and beyond it, is the little plain of Jupiter, where a temple formerly stood, and from which a Roman road led down on the Piedmontese side of the pass. This road may be traced in the hewn rock, and the remains of a massive pavement; but not a vestige of the temple is left above the surface.'—*Brockedon* (revised).

There is historical evidence that a monastery existed in Bourg St. Pierre in 812, and here by the year 859.

The present hospice was founded by Bernard, who was born of a noble family of Savoy, at the château of Menthon, on the Lake of Annecy, and was archdeacon of Aosta. He died most probably in 1081. For some time after the death of St. Bernard the hospice was exposed to frequent outrages from barbarians who traversed the mountains; and its records in the 11th cent. present a succession of calamities. The date 962, usually given as that of the foundation of the hospice, is an impossible one, as the Saracens then held the pass. Possibly since 1154, certainly since 1215, it has been served by Austin canons regular, the mother house being at Martigny.

'It soon acquired celebrity and opulence. As early as 1177, it had, in various dioceses, 88 benefices, priories, cures, châteaux, and farms; it had lands in Sicily, in Flanders, and in England. Its climax of riches and importance was in 1480, when it possessed 98 livings. Subsequently, however, the Reformation, political changes in the states,

loss of distant property, disputes with the popes, with the neighbouring states, and with each other, drove the canons of St. Bernard to seek even eleemosynary assistance. Very little property in land now belongs to the hospice; a vineyard at Clarens and a farm at Roche, in the Pays de Vaud, are the principal: their resources are small, and in aid of them collections are regularly made in the Swiss cantons.'—*Brockedon*.

Buonaparte rather impoverished than enriched the monks. It was true that he assisted them with donations, but his claims upon their funds exceeded his benefits; 40 men were quartered upon them for months together, and 60,000 passed in one season, and all these were assisted.

Near the convent is the *Morgue*, or receptacle for the dead. It is a low building, where the bodies of the unfortunate victims to storms and avalanches in these mountains have been placed. They have generally been found frozen, and put into this horrid receptacle, tied on to the long narrow boards which have served as litters to transport them from the spot where they were found. Here many have 'dried up and withered,' and on some even the clothes have remained after 18 years. In a walled enclosure on one side of the Morgue was a great accumulation of bones, white, broken, and apparently the gathering of centuries.

From the hospice, the *Mont Vêlan* (12,353 ft.) can be ascended by the *Proz Glacier* in 5 or 6 hrs. Nearer at hand are the *Chenalette* (9479 ft.) and *Mont Mort* (9403 ft.), each accessible in 1 hr. or 1½ hr.; the *Pic de Drônaz*, or *Pointe des Lacerandes* (9676 ft.), takes 2½ hrs. For the direct rtes. to Courmayeur, see *Rte. 134 c* and *Rte. 137 c*.

[Should the traveller desire to return to Martigny by a different rte., he may cross the *Col de Fenêtre* to the Swiss *Val Ferret* (*Rte. 137 B*),



and then either descend to Orsières, or cross the *Col des Planards* to Bourg St. Pierre, or the *Col des Névi de la Rossa* to Liddes. A pleasant high-level rte. is to go from the Cantine de Proz, by the Forgnon pastures, to the *Mourin* (9085 ft.), 3 hrs., and thence reach Orsières by the Tzisset-taz chalets, the Tour de Bavon, and the Bavon chalets—in all 9 hrs. to Orsières.]

On leaving the hospice to descend to the Val d'Aosta, the path skirts the lake, beside which is the boundary-stone between Switzerland and Italy, and runs between it and the Plan de Jupiter. A little farther, after passing through a short defile, the scene opens towards Italy, into the basin of the

*Vacherie*, where the cows of the convent are pastured. The road turns abruptly to the rt., and sweeps round the basin to descend gradually to the plain below.

The view on first looking out upon the *Vacherie*, from the gorge in the Mont Mort, is very fine; the mountains on the opposite side are grand in form and elevation: the most striking being the *Pain de Sucre*, celebrated by De Saussure.

At the lower end of the *Vacherie* the path winds down by zigzags, and the descent is rapid to

4 m. **St. Rémy**, a dreary little village. Here return chars to Aosta may generally be obtained for 10 fr. Travellers who leave Aosta to visit the hospice in a char for St. Rémy, and intend to return, cause it to wait for them here for 4 or 6 hrs., and pay 20 fr. for the char for the day, with a *bonnemain* to the driver.

Here is the Italian *custom-house*. [From St. Rémy a pedestrian may reach in 5 or 6 hrs. the summit of the *Mont Fallère* (10,046 ft.)—superb view—and may descend to Aosta in 4 hrs. by the *Sarre* chalets.] From St. Rémy the road descends, with little interest in the scenery, to

St. Oyen. At

4½ m. **Etroubles** [Hence a high path winds round the mountain-side past Dones to the village of *Valpelline* thus enabling a traveller to reach the Col de Fenêtre and Val de Bagnes by an easy rte. from the Hospice.], the St. Bernard branch of the Buthier is crossed, and the road descends to **Gignod**, where the vegetation begins to be luxuriant, and the effects of an Italian climate are felt and seen. Here there is a fine peep into the Valpelline. Below *Gignod* the richness of the scenery is constantly increasing. Trellised vines and Indian corn mark the approach to the valley of Aosta, and the first view of its ancient city, where the background is filled with the magnificent forms and snowy summits of the range of Mt. Emilius is very fine indeed.

10 m. **Aosta** (Rte. 134).

## ROUTE 136.

MARTIGNY TO AOSTA, BY THE VAL DE BAGNES AND COL DE FENÊTRE.

Hrs. walking.		
2½	.	Martigny
	.	Sembrancher (carriage-road)
1½	.	Chable
1	.	Champsec
0½	.	Lourtier (bridle-path)
3	.	Mauvoisin
3½	.	Chermontane
1½	.	Col de Fenêtre
4	.	Valpelline (carriage-road)
3	.	Aosta

This fertile and beautiful valley can be visited with convenience since the establishment of the little *Inn* at Mauvoisin. Carriage-road as far as Lourtier, mule-path thence to Valpelline. Diligence to Chable in 3¼ hrs. from Martigny.

Martigny to

*Combin de Corbassière* rises to the N.W. and farther N. is *Les Follats*, here called *Petit Combin*. The ascent lies N.W. from Mauvoisin to the small glacier of *Otanes*, and a gap in the ridge above it, the *Col des Otanes*. From this the rocks are somewhat steep down to the Corbassière glacier (near this point is the Club hut of Panossière), which is crossed, and ascended on the W. bank, and close under the snows of the Grand Combin to the col, 11,241 ft. The way down is by steep rocks and a snow gully, to the stream from the *Valsorey Glacier*, by which the way is easy to Bourg St. Pierre.

From the head of the Corbassière glacier, an easier and more beautiful pass, the *Col de Panosseyre* (11,150 ft.) leads by the Boveyre glacier and chalets to Bourg St. Pierre in rather less time than the Maisons Blanches. From the head of the Corbassière glacier it is perfectly easy to ascend either the *Combin de Corbassière* (12,212 ft.) by its W. ridge, or the *Petit Combin* (12,045 ft) in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. more. Both command glorious views on all sides, and are short expeditions when taken from the Panossière Club hut.

Other passes lead across the Corbassière glacier to Orsières. The *Col des Pauvres* reaches the glacier near its foot. It is then necessary to cross two high ridges, first the *Col des Arolions*, and then the *Col de l'Azet*, or *de l'Ane*. It is 10 hrs. by this rte. from Mauvoisin to Liddes in the Val d'Entremont.

The **Grand Combin** (14,164 ft.), known in the Val de Bagnes as the *Graffeneire*, is the giant of this part of the Pennine chain, but so shut in by lofty ridges that it is seldom seen from the adjoining valleys. For this reason, from the confusion of names, and the near neighbourhood of a second peak nearly as high, there has been some difficulty in identifying it. Its ascent from Mauvoisin is long and fatiguing, and at one point, overhanging séracs make the descent in the afternoon a little

dangerous for a short distance. M. Deville in 1860 was the first to reach the higher S. peak. The peak has since been climbed in one day, from Bourg St. Pierre, and back again by way of the Col des Maisons Blanches. The steep S. face, overhanging the Col du Sonadon, has also been climbed. A shorter route, striking up the face of the mountain before reaching the Sonadon Gl., has also been discovered. On the Mauvoisin side the best starting-point is the Panossière Club hut, on the Valsorey side, a hut built by the Balleys,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. below the Col des Maisons Blanches. The safest way up the peak is by the rocky W. ridge from that col—not difficult when the rocks are free from snows.

The two most useful passes to the *Val d'Hérémence* and *Arolla* are the easy *Col de Seilon*, by the Gétroz Glacier, described above (Rte. 131. Passes c), and the higher *Col de Brenney* (11,877 ft.) The latter is the finest pass for mountaineers, especially if combined with the ascent of the Pigne d'Arolla (under 1 hr. from the col). The glacier is reached from a long grass plateau, leading for nearly 3 m. S.S.E. from the path to the Gétroz chalets, and most easily reached from the Chanrion Club hut. The N. side of the glacier is ascended, and the ice-fall, the most likely source of trouble, has been found easy. The col lies between the Pigne d'Arolla and the N. end of the Serpentine ridge. The easiest descent from the col is by the Glacier de Seilon (see *Pigne d'Arolla*, Rte. 131). The *Col de Chermontane*, leading up the magnificent Hautemma Gl., is also a fine pass to Arolla (Rte. 131. Passes a). For the *Col de l'Evêque* and the direct high-level rte. to Zermatt by that pass and the Col de Bertol see Rte. 131, 3 b and c. The most tempting ascent on this side of the valley is perhaps the *Mont Pleureur* (12,159 ft.): it has been ascended from the Col de Vasevay (N. of the peak) by passing S. along the ridge, under the highest rocks of



*La Salle* (11,946 ft.), but is best climbed from the *Col de Gétroz* (on the way to the *Col de Seilon*) by its easy S. face, and S.W. ridge.

The *Ruinette* (12,737 ft.), and *Mt. Blanc de Seilon* (12,701 ft.), may be best climbed, the former from the Chanrion Club hut by its S. W. ridge, the latter direct from the *Col de Seilon*.

A series of passes has been described above (Rtes. 129, 130), connecting Arolla and Zermatt (or St. Niklaus), which deserves notice as affording ordinary pedestrians a most agreeable and varied introduction to some of the finest scenery of the Alps. Persons able to cross the *Col de Seilon*, a pass little harder than the *Théodule*, may thus go from Martigny to Zermatt, by what may be said to form a *Middle Level Rte.* between the mountaineers' passes and the Rhone valley, including in order from the W. the following pleasant halting-places—Mauvoisin, Arolla, Evolena, Zinal, St. Luc, Zmeiden. Mules may be taken from Arolla to St. Niklaus, and heavier luggage sent by post to any point.

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Above Mauvoisin the valley to its head (9 m.) is savage and solitary, a few huts of herdsmen being the only habitations. A  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr.'s descent brings the traveller to the waterfall and heap of ice below the *Gétroz Glacier* mentioned above. Here l. (10 min.) is a bridge and path leading up to the *chalets of Gétroz*, and towards the *Cols de Gétroz, de Seilon, and du Mont Rouge*. The bed of the lake is passed, the cliffs to the l. being beautifully draped with cascades, which float away on the wind. In  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. the path crosses to the E. bank at the 2 chalets of *Vingt-huit*, above which are the *Glacier de Zessetta* and *Tour de Boussine*, a buttress of the *Grand Combin*. The little *Inn at Lancey* has been ruined by an avalanche. In another  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr., having

recrossed the stream, the traveller looks up the *Glacier de Breney*, descending from the *Pigne d'Arolla*. [Here l. by a bridge to Chanrion.] Steep zigzags bring him in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to the *Glacier du Mont Durand*, which bars the way, extending to the precipices on the opposite side of the valley. It is easily crossed, even by mules, and in 1 hr. the dirty hovel of

**Grande Chermontane** (7317 ft.) is reached, at the foot of the *Glacier d'Hautemma*, where mountaineers used to pass the night in the midst of magnificent scenery, but also of mud, pigs, and cattle. On the alp to the E. are the hut and lake of *Chanrion*, close to which an admirably situated Club hut has been built by the Swiss Alpine Club (8071 ft), 3-4 hrs. from Mauvoisin. Hence the *Pointe d'Hautemma* (11,136 ft.), immediately to the W. can be reached by its W. face and S. ridge, or any of the other peaks or passes round the *Breney and Hautemma Glaciers*.

[The following are the chief passes S. and W. from the head of V. de Bagnes.

The route to the *Col du Sonadon* mounts from Chermontane to the *Glacier du Mont Durand*, passing its ice-falls along the rocks either of the N. or S. bank. [Several notches in the ridge S. of the *Mont Durand Glacier* afford access to the *By Alp* at the head of the *Val d'Ollomont*.] The col (11,446 ft.) lies directly under the cliffs of the *Grand Combin*, on the ridge connecting that mountain with the main chain. On the W. side is the chief difficulty. Below the first snow-slopes the *Glacier du Sonadon* is descended for about 500 yds., when it becomes impassable. From this point the course is along the face of steep rocks on the N. side, and down a gully raked by falling stones to the lower level of the glacier. It is possible to avoid this dangerous gully by climbing over a lofty spur of the *Grand Combin*, due N. of the col. Mauvoisin to St. Pierre about 10 hrs.

To the Upper *Valpelline* lead the

glacier passes of the *Col de Crête Sèche* and *Col d'Oren* (or de la Reuse de l'Arolla) (Rte. 132).]

A rapid ascent by cattle-tracks, above the Fenêtre glacier, with grand view of the frosted ribs of Mont Gelé, brings the traveller in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Chermontane to the

3 m. *Col de Fenêtre*, 9141 ft. above the sea. Calvin is said to have fled by this pass from Aosta in 1536. The ruined walls and entrenchments were thrown up in 1688 (as on the St. Théodule) by order of the Duke of Savoy to prevent the exiled Vaudois from re-entering his dominions.

[*Mont Avril* (10,962 ft.), is easily ascended from the Col de Fenêtre in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr., by slopes of *débris*. It commands a splendid view of the Grand Combin.]

'The view towards Italy is wonderfully striking. The Cogne mountains beyond Aosta, and the glaciers of the Rutor, are spread out in the distance, and beneath we have the exceeding deep valley of Ollomont, communicating with the Valpellina, which is itself a tributary of the Val d'Aosta. The col is enclosed by ridges of the most fantastic and savage grandeur, which descend from the mountains on either side; on the N.E. from Mont Combin, rising to a height of 14,164 ft., and on the S.E. from Mont Gelé, 11,539 ft. high, and almost too steep to bear snow, presenting a perfect ridge of pyramidal aiguilles stretching towards Valpellina.'—*Prof. Forbes*.

The course from the Col de Fenêtre to Valpelline is to skirt the base of the jagged ridges of *Mont Gelé* by following the mule-track, passing a small lake, by a rapid descent to high pastures. [From the highest chalets the *Mont Gelé* (11,539 ft.), may be easily gained in  $3\frac{1}{2}$ –4 hrs. by a rocky gorge to the N.E., and the easy Glacier de la Balme. The view up the Hautemma Glacier and down the Val de Bagnes is most striking; while the descent may be made across the Balme Glacier to the Val-

pelline.] The descent is long and fatiguing to *Balme*, the first hamlet, and to *Ollomont*, where there are copper mines, and traces of an aqueduct built by the Romans for the supply of water to Augusta Prætoria.

10 m. **Valpelline**, at the entrance of the valley of the same name, with a fine view of the Becca di Nona and Mt. Emilius. From this village a beautiful carriage-road leads to

8 m. **Aosta** (Rte. 134).

## ROUTE 137.

MARTIGNY, OR THE ST. BERNARD,  
TO COURMAYEUR.

- A. By the Col Ferret.
- B. By the Col de Fenêtre.
- C. By the Col Serena.

### A. Col Ferret.

Orsières to Courmayeur, 9 to 10 hrs.

The most direct route from Martigny and the Valais to the S. side of Mont Blanc is by the Col Ferret. The scenery on the Piedmontese side is fine.

The route from Martigny to Orsières has been described, Rte. 135. Char-road from Orsières as far as La Folly, chiefly used by hay-carts. Curiously diminutive cows draw these conveyances.

At **Orsières** the road turns off on the rt., and enters the *Val Ferret*, that name being given to the valley on the Swiss side, as well as to the Piedmontese valley descending from thence towards Courmayeur, and forming, in fact, a continuation of the Allée Blanche. The road to the col mounts along the bank of the torrent, and, after pursuing a tolerable road to *Ville d'Issert* (40 min.), the principal village, ascends rapidly towards the higher hamlet



of *Praz de Fort* (20 min.) opposite the end of the *Glacier de Saleinaz*. The mountains which bound the valley towards the W. are lofty, and crowned by those vast glaciers of the chain of Mont Blanc which descend towards the *Val Ferret*.

Looking back the traveller may notice the *Pierre à Voir*, but there is nothing very remarkable in the scenery of the Swiss Val Ferret. Beyond *Praz de Fort* (25 min.) begins a long ascent of an undulating green alp, passing numerous hay chalets, (at those of *Seiloz* is a small *Inn*), and afterwards some forest to

**La Folly** (1 hr. 20 min.), where an opening on the rt. discloses a grand view of the *Glacier de la Neuva*, descending from the rocks which connect *Le Tour Noir* (N.) with *Mont Dolent* (S.), and over which lies the pass of the *Col d'Argentière* (Rte. 142). It is a splendid amphitheatre of rocks and ice, with firs in the foreground, and a remarkable slate wall under Mt. Dolent. Here the path and valley bend to the l., to the

**Chalets de Ferret** (35 min.), with a small chapel, and rich pastures on the mountain sides. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. farther, crossing the detritus of a mountain which fell in the year 1776, burying the pasturages of Ban d'Arrey, the path divides—straight on for the *Col de Fenêtre* and the Great St. Bernard, rt. passing the stream and ascending a wild solitary alp to the

**Col Ferret** (1½ hr.), 8321 ft. above the sea.

[A short path leads from La Folly to another col, nearer the chain of Mont Blanc, called *Le Petit Ferret* (8176 ft.). It is not a mule-path, and the distant views are inferior. The paths re-unite at *Pré du Bar*.]

The woods and pasturages of part of the Swiss Val Ferret belong to the Convent of the Great St. Bernard.

From the *crest of the Col*, the view along the S.E. side of Mont Blanc towards Piedmont, is one of the

scenes celebrated by De Saussure. The eye is carried through the Val Ferret and the Allée Blanche to the Col de la Seigne, a distance of 18 m. Numerous glaciers are seen on the rt., streaming down into the valley from the ridge of Mont Blanc; but the 'Monarch' himself is not seen—the enormous masses of the Grandes Jorasses and the Géant conceal him in this view. In the opposite direction are the Grand Combin and other mountains at the head of the Val d'Entremont.

The descent is over a soft slaty soil, wherein the tracks of cattle have cut deep trenches, in which if a man stand he is half concealed.

25 min. bring a pedestrian to the *Chalets of Pré de Bar* at the foot of the *Glacier du Mont Dolent*, and 20 min. more to the level of the valley, close to the vast moraine of the *Glacier de Triolet*, an ice-stream descending from the Mt. Dolent and *Aig. de Triolet*.

The road now runs amidst rocks and stones and bushes, and commands a wild scene of Alpine desolation. The valley is narrow, flat, and marshy, and each rift on the mountain side towards Mont Blanc has its glacier hanging from the summit. Not less than 6 distinct glaciers are passed in the course of this valley before reaching the village of *Entrèves*, near Courmayeur, viz., Gl. du Mont Dolent, Gl. de Triolet, Gl. Freboutzie, Gl. des Grandes Jorasses, Gl. de Rochefort, Gl. du Mt. Fréty. Three descend from the Grandes and Petites Jorasses, and the remarkable peak of the Géant. A few miserable villages are passed. The highest is *Gruetta* (1¾ hr. from the col); those below, *La Vachey*, *Praz Sec*, and *Neiron*. About 2 m. below Neiron the path divides in a fir-wood—straight on by *Entrèves*; l., crossing the stream, and by a shorter rte., to Courmayeur. More than half the length of the valley is passed, on the descent, before Mont Blanc is seen. When its prodigious mass opens to the view, the effect is overwhelming. Taking the l. of the

two paths, and passing under the rocks of *Mont de la Saxe*, the pedestrian, in  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hr. from Gruetta, reaches

**Courmayeur** (Rte. 134).

### B. Col de Fenêtre.

By allowing 2 easy days for the journey from Martigny to Courmayeur the pedestrian may combine a visit to the St. Bernard with the view of the Allée Blanche from the Col Ferret, which is one of the striking scenes in the tour of Mont Blanc. Going on the first day to the Hospice of the St. Bernard (Rte. 135), he may take a guide to lead him thence by the *Col de Fenêtre* (8855 ft.),  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the Hospice to the head of the Swiss Val Ferret. The way is pretty well traced; but a little fresh snow would be sufficient to conceal it, when it would be very difficult to find the true direction.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the Hospice suffice to reach the point where this path joins the ordinary rte. from Orsières to the Col Ferret, about an hour below the summit of that pass on the Swiss side.

### C. Col de Serena.

This is the shortest rte. for pedestrians from the Great St. Bernard to Courmayeur. It is not, however, a very interesting pass. A path turns to the rt. close to the Vacherie of the Hospice, and, winding round the slopes of the mountain, reaches the chalet at the foot of the Col de Serena, where it joins the regular track. This is a considerable shortcut, but is fatiguing, and requires a local guide. A good walker may easily get to Courmayeur this way in 7 hrs. The ordinary rte., which is passable for mules, descends as far as St. Rémy. It there turns rt. to the village of *Bosses*, and runs through fields for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to the foot of the col. From that point it is a  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s ascent through a pine-forest to the last chalet, where milk and cheese may be obtained as long as the cows are on the mountain. Here, instead of following a road to the rt., go up the

mountain by a zigzag path immediately *behind* the chalet, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s good walking will land you on the col (8328 ft.). This part of the rte. is exceedingly steep, but the view from the summit well rewards the labour. The scenery is very wild, especially towards the N. and N.W., offering a great contrast to the beautifully cultivated valley of Aosta, which shortly afterwards (just above the village of **Morge**) you see extended at your feet. From Morge to Morgex, on the high road between Aosta and Courmayeur (Rte. 134), is a walk down a stony path of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. Thence to Courmayeur 2 hrs.' walk; in all about 9 hrs. from the Hospice. The Serena abounds with ptarmigan.

There is another pass from the Hospice, called the *Col de St. Rémy*, by which the Piedmontese Val Ferret may be reached over the *Col d'Arteréva* or Malatra (see Rte. 134, c). There is no advantage in this rte. It is longer than the Serena, and you lose the view of the Allée Blanche from the Col Ferret.

## ROUTE 138.

### GENEVA TO CHAMONIX.

Eng. m.

		Geneva
16 $\frac{3}{4}$	. . . .	Bonneville
26 $\frac{1}{4}$	. . . .	Cluses
36 $\frac{1}{2}$	. . . .	Sallanches
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	. . . .	Chamonix.

The rly. to Chamonix is now open as far as Cluses, and is being rapidly pushed on. Three trains daily from Geneva are in correspondence at Cluses with the diligences, Chamonix being thus reached in about 7 hrs. from Geneva, and St. Gervais in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. Return tickets may be had, or circular tickets allowing a traveller to regain, by diligence, the rly at Martigny (8 hrs.) or Annecy ( $11\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.), or Albertville (9 hrs.)—all pleasant rtes. (see Rtes. 141 and 150).



The rly. (which as far as La Roche is that to Annecy) starts from the Eaux Vives Station on the E. side of the town, and runs amid villas and gardens to ( $2\frac{1}{4}$  m.) **Chêne Stat.**

It offers some fine views of the Voirons l., of Mont Salève, the picturesque red *Château de Mornex*, and the range of the Jura rt. Soon after leaving Chêne, the line crosses a little stream, the Foron, which has its source in the Voirons, and is the boundary between the Canton of Geneva and Savoy. There is no customs examination, as Haute Savoie was made a 'free zone,' at the time of the French annexation. A little beyond it is ( $4\frac{1}{4}$  m.) **Annemasse Stat.**, junction for Evian (Rte. 57); a steam tramway hence to Samoëns (for Sixt) will be opened in 1891. To the S.E. the *Môle*, a conical mountain, is seen in all its height, 5932 ft., partly concealing the hollow through which the course to Chamonix lies.

Beyond Annemasse the rly. runs up the valley of the Arve, keeping at a good distance from the l. bank of the river, along the rt. bank of which the carriage-road passes. In the distance are seen the ruins of the 11th cent. *Château of Faucigny*, which gives its name to the province of Faucigny. Several small stations are passed before reaching ( $14\frac{1}{4}$  m.) **La Roche sur Foron Stat.** Here the Chamonix line leaves that to Annecy (Rte. 152), and bending E., crosses the Borne before entering ( $16\frac{3}{4}$  m.) **Bonneville Stat.**, 2271 Inhab., before the annexation to France the chief place in the province of Faucigny, and now a sous-préfecture. The top of the *Môle* may be reached in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

[A beautiful rte. to Annecy (carriage-road) is by the valley of the Borne and Thônes (30 m.) (Rte. 150).].

At one end of the stone bridge—built 1753—over the Arve, is a *Column* erected in honour of King Charles Felix, and in gratitude for

his having added to the security of the town by the formation of strong embankments, to restrain the furious Arve. It is surmounted by a statue of the King, and is 72 ft. high. At the other end is a Monument to the memory of the Haute Savoie men killed during the Franco-German war of 1870-71.

The rly. and carriage-road now run between the *Môle* and the *Pic de Jalouvre* (7999 ft.), which on the S. bounds the valley of the Arve, here richly cultivated. After some time, the valley widens, and the Arve is joined by Giffre, which, descending from the Buet, flows through the valley of Sixt. On the l., on a col, is *Châtillon*, through which lies the carriage-road (12 m.) to the valley of Sixt (Rte. 143).

[To the rt., before reaching Cluses, the entrance to the *Vallée du Reposoir* is passed, through which it is possible to gain St. Jean de Sixt and Annecy (Rte. 150). In 2 or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the high road the *Chartreuse du Reposoir* is reached. This is a large Carthusian monastery, founded in 1151 by Aimo, Baron of Faucigny, and still inhabited by monks. It is in a very wild and secluded position, and was several times visited by De Saussure, though rarely by travellers since his time. A good walker may, after spending the night here, or at the humble *Inn* at the neighbouring hamlet of *Pralong*, climb (4 to 5 hrs.) the *Pointe Percée du Reposoir*, or *Mont Fleuri* (9030 ft.), which is so placed as to command the finest possible view of the W. side of Mont Blanc, towering above the basin of Sallanches. The climb is a rough one, and requires local knowledge. *Pessey-Girod*, to be heard of at the Chartreuse, is a good guide. It is possible, with knowledge of the ground, to descend to Sallanches in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.]

$26\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Cluses Stat.** (1591 ft.), an old town, Pop. 1915—almost burnt down in 1844, and rebuilt away from the mouth of the gorge in which it originally stood. The

wind issuing from this opening used to foment any fire into a conflagration, and from this cause Cluses has suffered many times. The *ch.* is the 15th cent. chapel of a Cordelier convent.

.Its inhabitants are employed in watchmaking, which has recently received a considerable impulse here by the foundation of a Technical School. [For the passes to Sixt see Rte. 143.]

On leaving Cluses for the  $4\frac{3}{4}$  hrs. drive to Chamonix, the road is carried through the defile bounded l. by the limestone *Chaîne des Frêtes*. The valley is very narrow nearly all the way to Magland, and, in some places, the road is hemmed in between the river and the precipices, which actually overhang the traveler. The banks are well wooded, and the scenery beautiful.

Before arriving at Magland, the cliffs on the l. retire a little, forming an amphitheatre, which is filled, nearly half-way up, with the débris of the mountain. [At the top of this talus, 800 ft. above the valley, is the *Grotto of Balme*, to which a bridle-path leads—2 hrs. there and back. At the hamlet of *La Balme*, mules are kept for a visit to the grotto (adm. 3 fr.). The cave pierces the mountain for more than 1800 ft.; but the view from its mouth, owing to the narrowness of the valley, is limited. The peaks, however, on the other side of the valley, are remarkably fine in form.]

$30\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Magland** lies below the lofty mountains on the rt. bank of the Arve; the commune, which is straggling, contains 1576 Inhab.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond Magland, the road passes close to one of the highest waterfalls in Savoy, that of *Nant d'Arpenaz* (853 ft.); the stream is small, and before it reaches half its first descent it is broken into spray, yet its shape is graceful, and after being nearly dissipated and dispersed over the face of the precipice, it reforms on the slope, and rushing across the road beneath a bridge, it flows into

the Arve. The rock of brown limestone, from which it descends, is remarkable for its tortuous stratification, forming a vast curve.

[To Sixt, see Rte. 143.]

Beyond Magland the valley increases in width, and rich fields spread up the base of the mountains; on the l. the *Aiguille de Varens* rises 8163 ft. above the sea.

### 36 m. **St. Martin.**

[The *Aig. de Varens* may be ascended from here, a severe climb of 5 hrs.—the limestone plateau of *Platé* to its E. is very curious and striking. For passes from St. Martin to Sixt, see Rte. 143.]

The valley of Chamonix, like many others, is shut in by a rocky mass, through which the stream cuts its way in a deep ravine. The old rough char-road kept to the rt. bank of the river, and ascended by **Chedde** and **Servoz**. [Hence a mule-path over the Col d'Anterne leads to the valley of Sixt (Rte. 143), while the *Buet* may be ascended from the head of the Diosaz valley (Rte. 138).] It crossed the Arve in the middle of the ravine by a bridge known as the Pont Pélissier, and reached the valley of Chamonix by a very steep and rough ascent, called *Les Montets* or *Montées*.

The new road keeps to the l. bank, and is a fine example of the costly but splendid engineering works of the Second Empire. It crosses the Arve to Sallanches, half a mile from St. Martin. From this bridge there is a noble view of *Mont Blanc*: the actual distance is more than 12 m. in a direct line, yet so sharp, and bright, and clear is every part of the stupendous mountain, that one unused to such scenes will think it much nearer. On looking up the valley over the broad winter-bed of the Arve, however, objects recede, and give the accustomed impressions of distance: above the Arve rises the *Forclaz*, its sides clothed with pines, and its summit with pasturage. Beyond these green heights is seen the summit of Mont Blanc. To the l. of it the *Aiguille du Goûter* and *Dôme*

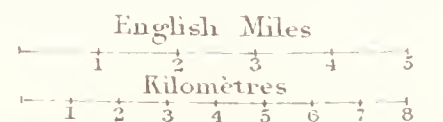








MAP OF  
MONT BLANC  
with the Valleys & Glaciers adjacent





du Goûter; to the rt. the Aiguille de Miage and Glaciers of Bionassay and Miage.

36½ m. **Sallanches** is a little town of wide, straight streets containing 2064 Inhab., risen out of the ashes of one which was totally destroyed by fire on Good Friday, 1840. From 1388-1793 its church belonged to a chapter of secular canons, which from 1519 to 1786 held the valley of Chamonix, having absorbed the old priory there.

[*Sallanches to St. Gervais le Village, by Combloux* (4 hrs.). Few of the travellers who roll along the dusty highway are aware that close at hand there is a 'loop-road' which commands some of the most superb views in the Alps. This road as far as Combloux is part of the 'Route Nationale' to Albertville (Rte. 150), over which diligences run from Chamonix, thus affording a pleasant way of returning to Geneva. About a mile short of Mégève a signpost marks the junction of the good cross-road to St. Gervais. The latter road descends through meadows and pine forest, affording superb glimpses of the different peaks of the Mt. Blanc chain, which form a charming supplement to the complete panorama obtained on the ascent to Combloux.

The *Pointe Percée*, or *Mont Fleuri* (9030 ft.), N.W. of Sallanches. This is the best possible view-point for Mont Blanc. Almost every summit of the chain is seen, as well as the whole 14,000 ft. of ascent from Sallanches, while the height and distance of the Point Percée are just sufficient to show the mountain in its true proportions. The ascent can be made without difficulty in 4½ hrs. from Sallanches by a tolerable climber; but the rte. up the rocks of the final peak is intricate and unknown in the locality. 'On reaching the ridge at the S.W. base of the peak descend a few feet, and then climb up and round the principal W. spur of the mountain, and crossing over it make the final

ascent by the great gully on the N. face overlooking the Chartreuse du Reposoir.'

Travellers will be well repaid by mounting from Sallanches, 2 hrs., to the pasturages below the peak, where a pleasure chalet has been built by a Lyons merchant. On the descent, a beautiful walk past Cordon and Combloux will take the traveller to St. Gervais.]

The new road runs along the plain to the village of (41½ m.) **Le Fayet**, at the entrance of the ravine of the *Bon Nant*, in which lie the baths of St. Gervais, about ¼ m. from the road.

[**Baths of St. Gervais**, 2067 ft. The valley is beautiful, and there are delightful walks for the convalescent. The waters are at 105° Fahr.—the heat of Bath with the qualities of Harrogate: they contain iron and sulphur. A little way up the glen is the *Cascade du Bon Nant*, which, though small, is extremely pretty. In the view from above it, the higher Alps are concealed; but the limestone range of the Aiguille de Varens is singularly picturesque in outline and detail.

The glen is a *cul de sac*; carriages must return to the entrance, whence a good road leads up in ½ hr. to the village of

**St. Gervais**, in the Val de Montjoie, 2680 ft. above the sea.

Hence there is a good road through the village of Bionnay to Contamines on the way to the Bonhomme (Rte. 139).

From St. Gervais to Les Houches in the valley of Chamonix there are 2 mountain mule-paths—by the *Col de Voza*, a pass of great interest, on account of its noble view of the chain of Mont Blanc, 5 hrs.' walk; or by the *Col de la Forclaz*, shorter, but less interesting. Between them a path leads up to the *Inn and Restaurant* on the *Prarion* (6460 ft.), which commands a noble view of Mt. Blanc. It is easy to descend from it to the Col de Voza, see Rte. 139.]

The road now ascends into the ravine of the Arve. It is carried along a shelf cut out of a rocky slope. The (45 $\frac{1}{4}$  m.) *Restaurant du Châtelard* stands in a charming grassy glade, described in its primitive quietness, when it was far from any road, by Mr. Ruskin. At the *H. des Montets* (Montées) the old road from Servoz falls in. The defile grows narrower and steeper. The snows of the Dôme du Goûter are a magnificent object in the background.

The road twice crosses the river, and enters the comparatively level meadows of the valley of Chamonix. The enormous mass of Mont Blanc, now in close proximity, is superb; but the summit can no longer be seen; it is concealed by the Dôme du Goûter, and the white glaciers are seen streaming towards the valley.

**Les Houches**, the first village in the valley, and 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Chamonix.

[Here diverges the path over the Col de Voza to St. Gervais or Contamines, and so to the Col du Bonhomme (Rte. 139).]

The first glacier is that of *Taconnaz*; it is, however, merely a line in comparison with surrounding objects, so that the traveller will probably be disappointed in its apparent size. Numerous torrents are passed, descending furiously from the glaciers, and cutting deep channels.

Beyond the glacier of Taconnaz is the hamlet of **Les Bossons**, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Les Houches, and opposite the *Glacier des Bossons*, which protrudes its tongue of clear blue ice far into the valley.

A little above Les Bossons Chamonix is seen, and beyond it the end of the *Glacier des Bois*.

(53 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.) **Chamonix.**

In August and September the *Hotels* here are frequently so full that travellers arriving at night have difficulty in obtaining accommodation. Mineral warm baths near the *H. de Londres* offer a refreshing and agreeable luxury after the fatigue of mountain excursions.

M. *Loppé*, whose ice and snow-scenes are familiar to Londoners, has a gallery of *Alpine paintings*, which is well worth a visit.

Joseph *Tairraz* and Venance *Payot* keep shops for the sale of carved wood, polished stones, crystals, &c.

A monument to *Jacques Balmat*, the first climber of Mont Blanc, was erected in 1878 before the church, and another in memory of De Saussure and Jacques Balmat in 1887, in front of the *H. Royal*. To return to Geneva, the traveller can choose between the routes (all carriage-road and railway) to Martigny (Rte. 141) and to Annecy or Albertville (Rte. 150).

**Chamonix**, 2420 Inhab., 3445 ft. above the sea, displays almost the bustle of an English watering-place in what was once a retired Alpine valley. A great part of the village was burnt in 1855, and it has lost its pristine simplicity.

Chamonix, Chamouni, or *Le Prieure* as it is still locally called from a Benedictine Priory, established here at the end of the 11th cent., was known earlier than is generally imagined. The original charter bears the seal of Count Aymo of the Genevois, and was made 'Papa Urbano regnante' (Pope Urban II.), which fixes the date between 1088 and 1099—probably 1091. This deed granted the vale of Chamonix, from the Col de Balme to the torrent of the Diozaz near Servoz, to the great Benedictine house of S. Michel de la Cluse near Turin, of which the priory of Chamonix (probably founded soon after) was a 'cell' or dependency. (In 1202 we hear of the 'chaplain' of Chamonix, in 1205 one Peter is prior of Mégève and Chamonix, and it is only in 1224 that the first independent prior is heard of.) It has been published, together with a large and very interesting collection of documents relating to the Priory, in 2 vols., by MM. Bonnefoy and A. Perrin (Chambéry, 1879 and 1883). Monsieur A. Perrin later (1887) published a most interesting History of



the valley and the priory, based on these documents. The name Chamonix (*campus munitus*) probably refers to the rampart of rock and ice which girdles the fields and meadows of the valley-basin. The priory gradually drew to itself most of the political and territorial power in the valley, but the prior in 1292 had to confirm the privileges of the inhabitants, from whom he could never wrest the criminal jurisdiction. In 1519 the priory was annexed to the collegiate church of Sallanches, and in 1786 the inhabitants purchased their freedom. No traces of the monastic buildings seem to be now in existence; it is stated that they were destroyed by fire in 1758. The first recorded visit of the bishop of Geneva, within whose diocese Chamonix lay, was in 1411. In 1443, after a sojourn with the prior of Sallanches, he continued his arduous journey, accompanied by the prior, his 2 chaplains, and some menials, all on foot, arriving at Chamonix as late as Oct. 4. In 1606 St. François de Sales penetrated into this remote corner of his diocese.

In May, 1669, a treasury official named Le Pays wrote from 'Chamony en Fossigny,' to a lady of his acquaintance the first description we have of the five glaciers of Chamonix: 'Enfin, madame, je voy icy cinq montagnes, qui vous ressemblent comme si c'estoit vous-meme . . . cinq montagnes, qui sont de glace toute pure depuis la teste jusqu'aux pieds . . . Au reste rien n'est si magnifique que ces montagnes quand elles reçoivent les rayons du soleil.'

The existence of Chamonix was certainly not a discovery of Windham and Pococke. The inhabitants of the valley had long had much intercourse with their neighbours, and their fairs, held at the priory, brought many strangers. The *Ordonnance* for establishing these fairs was granted by Philip of Savoy, Count of the Gênevois, lord of Faucigny, and for a time bishop of Geneva, and bears date 1530; and 3

years later he gave permission for the establishment of a weekly market, which still exists. Nothing, however, was known of the scenery of Mont Blanc, and even at Geneva it was a matter of dispute whether the great snowy masses (*Les Glacières*) seen on the horizon lay N. or S. of the valley of Chamonix, and in some maps they were even placed to the W. This ignorance was probably due to the effects of the Reformation, by which the bishop of Geneva was forced to live at Annecy, and thus Geneva had little to do with matters in Savoy. It was Messrs. Windham and Pococke's excursion to Chamonix, in 1741, and their report of it which drew general attention to the sublime scenery of Mont Blanc. They are still held in honour at Chamonix. The stone under which they are erroneously supposed to have slept by the side of the *Mer de Glace* was called *Pierre des Anglais*, and, having been broken by a shepherd's fire, another was placed there with the inscription 'Pococke et Windham, 1741.' De Saussure first visited Chamonix in 1760.

In the view from Chamonix *Mont Blanc* (15,782 ft.) is seen to the S., and the ridge descending from it, through the *Bosses du Dromadaire* (14,948 ft.), and the *Dôme du Goûter* (14,210 ft.), to the *Aiguille du Goûter* (12,707 ft.). Overhead is the *Aiguille du Midi* (12,609 ft.), and S.E., between it and the *Aiguille des Charmoz* (11,293 ft.), a range of aiguilles streaming with small glaciers, at the base of which is the elevated plateau called *Plan de l'Aiguille*. On the N. side of the valley are the *Brévent* over Chamonix and the *Aiguilles Rouges* opposite the *Glacier des Bois*.

### Excursions round Chamonix.

The best excursions for ordinary tourists, who can ride and walk a short distance, are—1. the Montanvers, returning by the *Mer de Glace* and *Chapeau*; 2. the *Planpraz chalets*, and the *Flégère* (including, if possible, the *Brévent*); 3. the *Glacier*

des Bossons and the Pierre Pointue ; 4, drive to Servoz (1 hr.) and visit the very striking and picturesque Gorges de la Diosaz (1 hr., admission 1 fr.) ; this excursion may be combined with a visit to the Glacier des Bossons. Fair walkers will visit the Jardin and Grands Mulets and, perhaps, cross the A. des Grands Montets from the Montenvers to Argentière, and ascend the Buet. One of the easier of the higher peaks is the *Pic du Tacul* (11,280 ft.), the ascent of which is now frequently made from the Montenvers (6-7 hrs.) ; it commands a most extensive view, and is strongly recommended to good walkers who do not intend to attack any of the higher peaks.

a. *Pierre Pointue, Cascade du Dard*.—When cloudy weather forbids your thinking of excursions in which a distant view is the chief object, a visit to the *Cascade du Dard* and *Glacier des Bossons* may be made.

Cross the bridge and turn to the rt., past H. Couttet, and in less than 10 min. you will find the path divide at the second cluster of cottages. Take the l. or upper one, and bear to the l. towards and through a pine-wood in a slanting and southerly direction. The path is tolerably clear, and leads to the edge of a ravine of large boulders of granite, through which runs the stream which feeds and flows from the cascade. Do not cross this stream, but keep up its near side, and you will soon see the chalet near the cascade (clean, and cheap refreshments). Then descend to the bottom of the fall by a path at the corner by the chalet. The situation is charming. You may extend the walk  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. through a wood to the *Glacier des Bossons*, in which an artificial grotto is generally scooped out. Ladies can cross the level portion of the ice, the pinnacles of which are most imposing ; glacier now advancing after a quarter of a century of retreat. From the *Cascade du Dard* a bridle-path mounts in about 2 hrs. by a steep but safe ascent to the *Pavillon de la*

*Pierre Pointue* (a small dear *Inn*, with beds), which is the first stage on the route to the summit of Mt. Blanc. This is a delightful walk, for the most part through a pine-forest, and near the edge of a wild ravine, which descends from the *Glacier des Bossons*. The little *Inn* (6723 ft.) is perched on a commanding terrace below the *Aig. du Midi*, and the near view from it of the torn surface of the *Glacier des Bossons* is magnificent. Beyond rise the black crags of the *Grands Mulets*, and from that point the eye follows the rte. up the snows towards Mont Blanc. 40 min. higher, by a rough foot-track, is the *Pierre à l'Echelle*, where a ladder used to be left for crossing the glacier (2 hrs. thence to the *Grands Mulets*). From *Pierre Pointue* good walkers can ascend to the *Plan de l'Aiguille*, and return to Chamonix by the Montenvers.

b. The *Montenvers* (the pasturage at the back).—This is the most popular excursion from Chamonix. The object is to visit the *Mer de Glace*, which terminates in the *Glacier des Bois*. There is a good mule-road, and the *Inn* on the Montenvers may be reached riding in 2 hrs. : to descend takes about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. No occasion for a guide, as the way cannot be missed. After crossing the Arve at Chamonix the path turns to the l., passing the English church, and running up the flat valley nearly half a mile to the foot of the mountain. From that point it rises rapidly in zigzags through the forest. Occasional openings reveal the valley of the Arve, the Flégère and Brévent marking the height which is rapidly attained. The *Aiguille du Dru* rises magnificently above the pine-tops. A few more zigzags, and the *Mer de Glace* and its wonderful scenery open on the traveller.

Here, on a promontory 280 ft. above the ice, and 6303 ft. above the sea, was built in 1840 a little *Inn*, superseded in 1879 by a large and singularly ugly *Hotel* (very comfortable). The former modest *Inn* had



in its turn succeeded the rude hut, composed of a boulder stone and dry wall turfed over, beneath which De Saussure slept in 1778, and the regularly built cabin (which lasted from 1779-1812) called 'Château Blair,' from the Englishman who erected it. The little temple erected, 1795, 'à la Nature,' by M. Desportes, the French Minister at Geneva, and a disciple of Rousseau, was long used as a drinking room for the muleteers. At the Montenvers Professors Forbes and Tyndall spent, at different times, many weeks while investigating the theory of glacier motion, and the latter some days in the depth of winter. The *Hotel* is a good station for visiting the higher part of the Mer de Glace, Jardin, &c. Directly below it is the *Pierre des Anglais*, inscribed with the names of Pococke and Windham.

From the Montenvers the broken, winding glacier is seen extending 5 m. to the serrated wall of the *Grandes* and *Petites Jorasses*. The Mer de Glace, properly so-called, terminates in about 2 m., at a point where it receives its affluents—the *Glacier du Géant* from the S.W., the *Glacier de Talèfre* from the E., the *Glacier de Leschaux* from the S.E. On the E., opposite the Montenvers, the sky is pierced by that surprising obelisk, the *Aiguille du Dru* (12,517 ft.), a buttress of the greater *Aiguille Verte* (13,541 ft.), rising behind it but from here partially concealed. Farther on is the *Aiguille du Moine* (11,214 ft.), the rocky foot of which at the junction of the glaciers of Talèfre and Leschaux is called the *Couvercle*. On the W. is the *Aig. des Charmoz* (11,293 ft.), with a singular gap and pinnacle on its shoulder. The rocks at its E. base are called *Trélaporte*. Farther on, beyond the Glacier du Géant, are the *Pic du Tacul*, *Les Périades*, and *Mont Mallet*.

The regular round from the Montenvers is to cross the Mer de Glace and descend on the other side by the *Chapeau* (g) and *Source of the*

*Arveyron* (f), the mules being dismissed or sent round to meet the travellers; but no one should neglect to first walk a little way along the path from the *Inn* by the glacier side. It is surprising how quickly the scene changes and grows, if possible, in magnificence, and the track is quite safe and easy. Few think of extending the excursion along the Mer de Glace to the opening where the ice-streams meet (7188 ft.). This walk is somewhat fatiguing, and not to be attempted by tourists without a guide, but it is in no sense difficult. 'To feel the true mountain spirit,' says Mr. Leslie Stephen, 'a man must go into the heart of the mountains: he cannot know what the sea is like by standing on the shore.'

Travellers who return direct to Chamonix, if they are strangers to glacier ice, should at any rate first descend upon the Mer de Glace to obtain some idea of the character of its ridged surface, which cannot be well seen from the heights, and to observe close at hand the intense blue colour in the crevasses. From the Montenvers *Inn* a steep path leads down to the moraine. Those who descend by the Chapeau cross the glacier where the ice for a short distance is smooth and easily traversed. The passage is daily made in summer by hundreds of people and no serious accident ever happens. The rocks above the ice on the Chapeau side are steep and smooth, but the ledge by which they are traversed has been widened and provided with handrails, so as no longer to deserve its old name of 'Le Mauvais Pas.'  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the Montenvers to the Chapeau *Inn* (5738 ft.), whence an easy descent leads down to the valley (see g below).

c. *The Jardin*. Those who wish to visit the Mer de Glace and the Jardin on the Glacier de Talèfre, may either sleep at the Montenvers, or shorten the walk by riding thus far from Chamonix. From the Montenvers it is a walk of 4 hrs. to the Jardin, and 3 to return. This is a

most beautiful glacier excursion, free from danger, and so easy as to be suited to ladies, who may thus gain an insight into the glories of the higher Alps. A guide is necessary. The object of the excursion is to enter into the heart of the Mont Blanc range, and form a correct idea of its snowy solitudes.

The way now generally followed lies S. of the ice-fall of the Talèfre Glacier, passing a rude hut, in a disgraceful state of disrepair, at a spot known as the *Pierre à Béranger*, principally used by climbers attacking the Aiguille Verte. The *Jardin* is a slope about 7 acres in extent, and between 9145 and 9833 ft. above the sea. Around it spreads the oval basin of the Glacier de Talèfre, under the formidable walls of *Les Droites* and *Les Courtes*, which connect the Aig. Verte with the Aig. de Triolet. N.W. rises the Aig. du Moine, S.E. the Aig. de Talèfre. Nothing can well exceed the grandeur of such a spot, amidst the eternal snows of Mont Blanc, surrounded on all sides by the host of aiguilles. Piercing the blue of heaven, yet overtopped by one supreme and glittering summit, they vindicate the truth of the poet's description,—

'Mont Blanc is the monarch of mountains;  
They crown'd him long ago,  
On a throne of rocks, in a robe of clouds,  
With a diadem of snow.'

Rare plants and minerals may be collected; the former on the Egralèts (the rocks, over which the old rte. led, N. of the Talèfre ice-fall) and Jardin, the latter on the moraines of the Glacier de Talèfre, and the E. side of the Mer de Glace. A list of plants found on the Jardin was published by Dr. Percy in the *Trans. of the Edinburgh Bot. Soc.* for 1836.

If the traveller be not pressed for time and have a taste for such sublime scenes, he may sleep at the Montenvers, and next morning, instead of returning by the beaten road to Chamonix, explore the bases of the Aiguilles between the Mer de

Glace and Mont Blanc, descending either by the Glacier des Pélerins and Pierre Pointue, or by the mule-path from the *Plan de l'Aiguille*. If by the former, he will gain an admirable view of the Glacier des Bosses at the point where it is crossed on the way to the Grands Mulets, in the ascent of Mont Blanc, and he will obtain some idea of the difficulties to be encountered, and the magnificence of the scenes to be enjoyed, in that expedition.

d. *The Aiguille des Grands Montets* (10,850 ft.).—This is the blunt summit which rises E. of the Mer de Glace between it and the Gl. d'Argentière. It is easy of access by the Nant Blanc Glacier for fair walkers with guides, and the views obtained during the expedition are equal to any in this district. It is possible to descend by the mountain Inn, called *Pavillon de Lognan*, to Argentière in 7 or 8 hrs. from the Montenvers.

e. *Planpraz, the Brévent, and the Flégère*.—The admirable views of the chain of Mont Blanc, gained on this rte., make it one of the indispensable excursions from Chamonix.

The excellent mule-path to Sixt, which begins at the church of Chamonix, is ascended through forest for about 1 hr. to the *Chalet des Chablettes*, a good point of view, and for another hr. up a stony slope to the little Inn at **Planpraz** on a pasture terrace 6772 ft. above the sea. This is a ride of 2½ hrs. from Chamonix. Mules are left here to await their return by those who ascend the Brévent, 1½ hr.'s easy walk. The path up the Cheminée, a steep rocky gully, has been so much improved as to offer no difficulty, and which may be avoided by making a slight détour. The **Brévent** (8284 ft. above the sea), has the finest of the near views of the summit of *Mont Blanc*, with its neighbours the *Mont Maudit* and *Mont Blanc du Tacul* to the E.; the *Bosses du Dromadaire*, *Dôme du Goûter*, and *Aig. du Goûter*, on the W.; while the great Glaciers



des Bossons and de Taconnaz stream down in the centre. On the N.W. is seen the wild ruinous range of the *Rochers des Fys* or *Fiz*, from the *Aig. de Varens*, over Servoz, to the *Pointe de Salles* (8183 ft.), over Sixt; to the E. the Col de Balme, to the S.W. the Col de Voza, and beyond it *Mont Joly*.

The return to Chamonix (2½ hrs.) may be made by a path on the W. side of the Brévent, above the valley of Diosaz, near the little *Lac du Brévent*; descending thence by the chalets of *Bel Achat* (Restaurant) 6975 ft. (whence it is only 1 hr.'s walk up to the top of the Brévent) to a lower point in the valley of Chamonix. Or the traveller may descend to Servoz (3 hrs.) or to Sixt, by the Col d'Anterne (Rte. 143 B).

If he returns to Planpraz, to rejoin his mules, he may follow a terrace path which leads in 1½ hr. to the **Flégère** (5925 ft.), a plateau on the mountain side below the *Aiguilles Rouges*. (Those, however, who find the whole excursion too long will do well to prefer the ascent of the Brévent to the circuit by the Flégère.)

This point of view lies exactly opposite the *Glacier des Bois* and *Mer de Glace*. The *Chalet Inn* of the Flégère has 10 beds, supplies excellent food, and is very clean, while the host is most attentive. The descent to Chamonix through a pine-forest takes 2 hrs.

*f. Source of the Arveyron.*—This affluent of the Arve issues from beneath a vault or cave of ice in which the *Glacier des Bois* and *Mer de Glace* terminate. The ice-cavern from which the stream issued was remarkable, but of late years it has been scarcely worth a visit (1 hr.'s walk from Chamonix), as the glacier has retreated so far.

*g. The Chapeau* is one of the points of view over the *Glacier des Bois*, on the side furthest from Chamonix; from it the *Aiguilles* of Charmoz and Blaitière are well seen, with the vale of Chamonix and the

Brévent. A visit to the Chapeau may be made either on foot or with the mules: if you go by the regular road, continue along the valley as far as Les Tines, beyond which is a bridle-path on the rt., through the hamlet of Lavancher, to the foot of the ascent. Mules can go as far as a grass mound properly called the *Chapeau* (5738 ft., 2 hrs.), where is a chalet with refreshments. This excursion is scarcely worth a separate day, and is best combined with the Montenvers (see *b*).

*h. Excursion to the Col de Balme and Tête Noire* and back without going to Martigny, in about 9½ hrs., combining the chief beauties of both passes. From the *Inn* on the summit of the Col de Balme (Rte. 141) there is a path, practicable for mules, direct to the *Tête Noire Inn*. It turns l. across pastures scored with cattle-tracks, and bears away gradually to the rt., passing a small lake, whence a rather steep descent brings the traveller in about an hr. immediately above the valley of the *Tête Noire*. The path for the last ½ hr. skirts the edge of the precipice and descends a kind of staircase to the H. de la *Tête Noire* (Rte. 141). It is perhaps better to make this excursion in the opposite direction, going first to the *Tête Noire*, and ascending to the Col de Balme.

*i. The Plan de l'Aiguille.*—This excursion may be combined with that to the Montenvers or Pierre Pointue; but it has its own mule-path, which begins just outside Chamonix, turning l., at the first cottages, from the path to the *Cascade du Dard*. The object is to gain a magnificent view, and to see nearer the *Aiguilles* and the wild scenery at their bases. The *Pavillon Restaurant* has been closed. Paths lead from it to the Montenvers and Pierre Pointue. The ride up is called 3 hrs., passing in 30 min. the *Cascade de Blaitière*, and then steep through the forest to the Plan, 7487 ft. above the sea, between the *Glaciers des Pélerin*s and de Blaitière. Further E. is the Gl. des Nantillons,

and from W. to E. are the *A. du Midi* (12,609 ft.), *A. du Plan* (12,051 ft.), *A. de Blaitière* (11,592 ft.), *A. des Charmoz* (11,293 ft.). On the W. side of the Gl. de Blaitière is a small lake.

*k. The Buet.* This peak is in itself a wild and desolate mountain, chiefly interesting from the extraordinary change which has taken place in the appearance of its upper portion, owing to the rapid diminution of its glaciers during the past 30 years. Its ascent is perfectly easy for fair walkers, and is frequently made for the sake of the view of Mont Blanc. From few points can the height and dimensions of the upper portion of that mountain be so well seen, and the view is only inferior to that from the Pointe Percée above Sallanches. The supreme grandeur of Mont Blanc diverts attention from the panorama, which includes many of the Bernese and Pennine Alps, and a fine view over the ranges of Upper Savoy. The mountain was first ascended in 1770 by the brothers Deluc, and in a crevasse of the glacier on the Servoz side perished on August 7, 1800, Mons. Eschen, the first victim to the passion for exploring the higher snow regions; a monument was set up in his honour near Servoz, and is probably still in existence. The ascent may be shortened by sleeping at Argentière, or, better still, at the chalet *Inn* of the Pierre à Bérard. From Chamonix to Argentière is a carriage-road (6 m.). Beyond this village the char-road of the Tête Noire is followed over the Col des Montets to the chalets of Poyaz, where the traveller turns l. up the *Vallée de Bérard*, which is beautiful at its entrance, but savage above. In  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Argentière the path reaches the *Pierre à Bérard* (6332 ft.), a small *Inn* with beds. To this point mules can go. The *Col de Salenton* (to Servoz by the Diosaz valley) is left to the S.; another rock, called the *Table au Chantre*, in memory of M. Marc Théodore Bourrit, Pre-

centor of the Cathedral of Geneva, a contemporary of De Saussure, and one of the earliest and most enthusiastic explorers and illustrators of this district, is passed, and the track ascends a series of ridges of rock and beds of snow (2 to 3 hrs. from the Pierre à Bérard to the summit (10,201 ft.). You may descend to Servoz by the *Col de Léchaud* at the head of the *Vallée de la Diosaz*, or to Chamonix, by crossing the ridge of the Brévent from that valley, or to Sixt by the *Col de Léchaud* and the *Vallée des Fonds* in 5 hrs. By starting from Argentière in the morning, Sixt is easily reached in the evening (Rte. 143).

*l. The ascent of Mont Blanc* is frequently made from Chamonix. Though the rte. is long and fatiguing, Mont Blanc is not a difficult mountain, and is consequently often ascended by ladies and persons utterly unfitted for the exertion. It is, however, subject to terrible storms, and more lives have been lost on it than on any other high peak in the Alps. The expense of the ascent for one person is 200 fr. (the pay of 2 guides), besides the cost of provisions. No porter ought to be required, but the Chamonix rules provide that one shall be taken, and this is sometimes insisted on. For two or more travellers 100 fr. each (pay of 1 guide), plus a share of the expense of the extra guide and provisions. In other words, one can make the ascent for about 10l.; two for about 7l. each.

The mountain is now so well known, and the proper precautions so thoroughly understood, that little serious risk is incurred *in fine weather*, and with *really experienced and trustworthy guides*. It should be generally known, however, that those who make the attempt without a good deal of previous training may suffer severely from fatigue, and are likely to derive very little enjoyment from the expedition.

The chain of Mont Blanc runs from N.E. to S.W. between the Col



Ferret and Col du Bonhomme, rising directly from the valley on the Italian side, but at a considerable distance from the vale of Chamonix, to which it throws out minor spurs or ridges. Two of these spurs, radiating from the summit of Mont Blanc N.E. and W., enclose the opening through which the top is gained from Chamonix, while along the W. spur lies the rte. from St. Gervais.

In the charter of 1091, in which Chamonix is first mentioned, we read of the *rupes quae vocatur alba*, which may refer to Mont Blanc; but the mountain (or rather chain) was later known as 'La Montagne Maudite,' or 'Les Glacières,' though Martel in 1742, and Gruner in 1760, use the name 'Mont Blanc' as a well-known term, so that it is certainly earlier than De Saussure (who did not come to Chamonix till 1760), who is sometimes said to have invented it. The first mention of Mont Blanc in English literature is found in Bishop Burnet's letters (A.D. 1685). The bishop speaks of it as 'the hill called Maudit or Cursed, two miles in perpendicular height, and of which one-third is always covered with snow.' But it was not till the beginning of the following cent. that its situation was ascertained, or till towards its end that attempts were made to conquer it.

The earliest attempts, from 1775 onwards, to ascend this redoubtable mountain were prompted by De Saussure, and made from the *Montagne de la Côte*, between the glaciers of Bossons and Taconnaz, but were without success until 1786. In that year *Jacques Balmat*, who had remained behind on one of these expeditions, discovered the Grand Plateau, and soon afterwards reached the top (August 8, 1786) by this route, taking with him Dr. Paccard. In 1787 De Saussure made his famous ascent in 4 days, with 18 guides headed by Balmat, passing the first night on the *Montagne de*

la Côte, and the two following on the snow; and six days later Col. Beaufoy accomplished the first English ascent. In 1820, Dr. Hamel, a Russian, accompanied by two Englishmen, met with a sad accident. Fresh snow had fallen, and when passing the Rochers Rouges an avalanche swept three of the guides into a crevasse. Their remains were found in 1861 and 1863, in the latter year on the Glacier des Bossons,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the scene of the disaster. From this time the 'Ancien Passage,' to the rt. of the Rochers Rouges, was abandoned, and in 1827 Messrs. Fellowes and Hawes passed to the l. of the rocks by the circuitous rte. through the Corridor, which has been since followed. In 1855, Messrs. Hudson and E. S. Kennedy, with three companions, but without guides, were the first to ascend from St. Gervais. They reached the Dôme du Goûter, but from that point descended to the Grand Plateau and proceeded by the usual rte. In 1859, Mr. Hudson accomplished the other half by mounting from the Plateau to the Dôme and passing thence along the Bosses du Dromadaire; and in 1861 Messrs. L. Stephen and Tuckett made the complete ascent from St. Gervais by the Aig. du Goûter, the Dôme, and the Bosses. In August 1870, a party of eleven, three travellers and eight guides and porters, were caught in a storm and perished.

*Ascent from Chamonix.*—The traveller mounts by the steep forest and pasture in  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. to the *Pierre Pointue*, and in 40 min. more, to the *Pierre à l'Echelle* on the rt. bank of the *Glacier des Bossons*. The view from this point of the wild sea of ice and snowy heights of the Aig. and Dôme du Goûter is very fine. To the l. are Mt. Blanc du Tacul and Mont Maudit. From the latter a minor ridge, mostly covered by the ice, but jutting out in the dark rocks of the Grands Mulets, runs down towards the *Montagne de la Côte*, and separates the Glaciers of

Taconnaz and Bossons. The passage of the glacier generally takes about 2 hrs., but the time varies with the state of the ice, which is always torn and broken, and in some seasons somewhat difficult. After crossing the most crevassed spot where the two ice-streams meet, the rte. lies up steep slopes which turn from ice to névé at the base of the *Grands Mulets*. Here is a large clean hut, permanently inhabited in summer, where food, wine, and beds are provided at high prices, though the difficulties of transport must not be overlooked. It is perched upon a ledge 9863 ft. above the sea, and supplies everything needful for a night. There is a smaller cabin for the guides. The excursion to the *Grands Mulets*, and a night spent there, give a better idea of the glories of the ice-world than can be obtained elsewhere at so moderate a cost in exertion. A fine sunset from this height is a spectacle never to be forgotten.

Those who proceed to Mont Blanc usually start an hour before day-break, in order to profit by the hard snow.

The track mounts for about 3 to 3½ hrs. by the easy slopes of the *Petit Plateau*, and a steep crevassed incline to the *Grand Plateau* (12,901 ft.), which lies between the *Dôme du Goûter* and *Mont Maudit*. In another hour, bearing to the l., it passes below the *Rochers Rouges*, and, W. of them, the 'Ancien Passage' where Dr. Hamel's guides were lost. It then enters the *Corridor*, a valley of snow leading up to the lowest point on the crest of the chain between Mt. Blanc and Mt. Maudit. Here the Italian mountains and Monte Rosa first burst on the view. Now begins the climb up the *Mur de la Côte*, a slow and chilling stage, as steps have often to be cut up the steep slope. But above, the slope grows less, the rocks called *Petits Mulets* break through the surface, and after a long easy slope has been

surmounted the summit is won. It is a narrow ridge, some 200 yards long, 15,782 ft. above the sea. During the latter part of the ascent, the rarity of the air affects, in many cases, the frames of climbers, so as to cause them to find unusual difficulty in walking, and to suffer from headache and nausea. The effects, however, are rarely experienced by guides or practised mountaineers, and experience in various portions of the globe has abundantly proved that at heights up to 20,000 ft., mountain-sickness, like sea-sickness, is an affection which, in the majority of cases, yields to habit and training (see *Introd.*).

An alternative rte. from the *Grand Plateau*, often followed, is by way of the *Bosses du Dromadaire* (14,948 ft.). It is more exposed to wind, but is perhaps otherwise preferable to the ordinary rte., specially as a large new 2-roomed hut, has been built on the rocks below the *Bosses* at a height of about 14,436 ft.

The view, as might be expected, is remarkable for extent and sublimity, rather than for any striking individual feature. The eye sweeps over all the snowy ranges of the Alps, from the Dauphiné to the Bernina. The Italian plain, so well seen from Monte Rosa, is hidden for the most part by intervening ranges, but the line of the Apennines is distinctly visible, and on the other side, beyond the Jura, which is itself seen like a mountain on a model, the plains of France stretch away to the hills of the Côte d'Or. The sky overhead is of the darkest blue; the horizon a rich amber tint, morning clouds gather a mile below the feet, sailing over the green slopes of Savoy or hanging in the forests of Val d'Aosta. Of course there are many days when the climber finds no such glorious rewards for his pains. Gathering mists or an icy blast compel him to turn back again after a hasty glance to convince himself that he has reached the highest ridge. Some



mountaineers, however, have by prudent skill managed, like M. Valot, July 27-30, 1887, to spend 3 days on the top, or to remain to witness the sunset, like M. Loppé, Mr. Eccles, and Mr. L. Stephen, in 1873. The effect of the gigantic shadow flung eastwards by Mont Blanc as the sun sinks is described as most wonderful. The time taken in the descent of Mont Blanc varies from 4 to 8 hrs., according to the state of the snow and the condition of the climbers.

*Ascent from St. Gervais.*—From the nearest starting-point, the *Bellevue Inn* on the Col de Voza (2 hrs. from St. Gervais), a track passes high along the flank of Mt. Lachat above the *Glacier de Bionnassay*. The slopes l. are ascended to the foot of the rocks of the *Aiguille du Goûter* (12,707 ft.). These are very steep buttresses, separated by snow couloirs; and as no one rib can be climbed to the top, a traveller has to pass from one to the other across a broad *couloir*, where stones sometimes fall. This is the only danger in the climb. If all goes well, the *Cabane*, a few feet below the summit of the aiguille, is reached in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the base of the rocks, 6 hrs. from the *Inn*. From this point the distance along the ridge of the *Dôme du Goûter* and *Bosses* to the top of Mont Blanc may be walked in 4 or 5 hrs. In 1864 Mr. Moore accomplished the whole ascent in one day from the P. Bellevue to Chamonix.

For the ascents of Mont Blanc from the Italian side, see Rte. 134<sup>1</sup>.

The excitement of passing a night on the mountain is part of the interest of an ascent of Mt. Blanc. This may, however, be enjoyed by going to the *Grands Mulets*, an excursion in which there is no danger, and by sleeping there; choosing a moonlight night and fine weather to enjoy the extensive view, the

bright sky, and the thunder of falling avalanches.

All the conspicuous Aiguilles have yielded to the perseverance of climbers, mainly members of the Alpine Club. The *Aiguille Verte* is an ascent fit only for practised climbers, with good guides. It varies greatly in difficulty according to the state of the rocks and the bergschrund, and in some years is practically impossible. The *A. du Midi* from the Vallée Blanche to its E. is a stiff but not very long climb. The *A. de Trélatête* commands a noble view, and is comparatively easy. The rock obelisk of the *Dru* was climbed in 1878, by the S. rocks, by Messrs. C. T. Dent and Hartley, after repeated unsuccessful attempts. It is an ascent of great difficulty. The highest point of the *A. du Géant* was first attained in 1882 by Mr. W. W. Graham.

Chamonix to Sixt by the Col du Brévent and Col d'Anterne (20 m.) is a ride or walk of 9 or 10 hrs. (not including halts) by an excellent mule-path. There are other mountain rtes. to Sixt from the valley of the Arve, from Servoz, St. Martin, and Magland (all described in Rte. 143).

For a *high-level rte. to Zermatt* from Chamonix in 4 or 5 days there is a choice of passes. 1st day, Col du Tour or Col d'Argentière to Orsières and perhaps Bourg St. Pierre. 2nd, Col des Maisons Blanches to Mauvoisin, or Col du Sonadon to the Club hut at Chanrion. 3rd, Col de Breney, or Col de Chermontane to Arolla. 4th, Col de Bertol and d'Hérens in succession, or the Cols du Mt. Brulé and de Valpelline.

See preceding Rtes.

## ROUTE 139.

CHAMONIX TO COURMAYEUR, BY  
THE COL DU BONHOMME AND  
THE COL DE LA SEIGNE.

Hrs.

Chamonix.

$1\frac{1}{4}$

. . Les Houches

<sup>1</sup> For a full and accurate account of the history of Mont Blanc, see Monsieur Charles Durier's admirable work *Le Mont Blanc*, 2nd ed., 1880.

Hrs.		
1½	. .	Col de Voza
3	. .	Contamines
2	. .	Nant Borrant
3½	. .	Col du Bonhomme
1¾	. .	Chapieux
2	. .	Mottets
1½	. .	Col de la Seigne
4½	. .	Courmayeur

Mule-path. A journey of 3 short days: 1st day to Contamines; 2nd day to Chapieux; 3rd day to Courmayeur; or 2 long days, sleeping at Nant Borrant. Fair walkers may cross the Col des Fours, instead of making the détour by Chapieux, but will do still better to venture on the Col du Mont Tondu (Rte. 142).

The *Tour of Mont Blanc* may thus be made in 7 days. 1, 2, and 3, to Courmayeur; 4, to Aosta (Rte. 134); 5, to the Great St. Bernard (Rte. 135); 6, to Martigny (Rte. 135); 7, to Chamonix. Or in 4 long days: 1 and 2, to Courmayeur; 3, to Orsières or Martigny, by the Col Ferret (Rte. 137), or to the Tête Noire by the Lac de Champex (Rte. 135); 4, to Chamonix (Rte. 141).

A guide should be taken in doubtful weather over the Bonhomme and Seigne. These passes are much exposed to bitter winds and snow, and the path may be easily lost. The views of the Mont Blanc range from the Col de Voza and in the descent to Courmayeur are superb, but between the Col de la Seigne and Contamines the scenery is dull.

From Chamonix the road to Salanches is followed as far as

4¼ m. **Les Houches**, 1¼ hr., from which steep paths ascend the mountain to the

*Col de Voza*. The first path to the l. goes to the *Pavillon Bellevue* (5948 ft.); another, ¼ m. farther on, to the *Pavillon du Col de Voza* (5496 ft.). [From the second path a third branches rt. to St. Gervais by the *Col de la Forclaz* (5105 ft.)]. The first is the bridle-path generally followed, and the Bellevue is the best *Inn*, but the charges are high. The

view from the col of the vale of Chamonix, the long slopes of Mont Blanc and Aiguilles Rouges, is exceedingly fine, and may be seen to still greater advantage from the height to the N.W., called the *Prarion* (6460 ft.) (a *Restaurant*). To the W. is Mont Joly. On the descent the grand *Glacier de Bionnassay*, sweeping down from the W. flank of Mont Blanc, between savage rocks, is a magnificent object. Those who are on mules, or going to St. Gervais, pass through the village of *Bionnassay*, and down a ravine in forest to the Val de Montjoie at *Bionnay*, 1¾ hr. from the col, 2 m. from St. Gervais, 3¼ m. from Contamines. The shorter path to Contamines crosses the stream near the glacier, runs along the mountain-side through *Champel*, and then l. over the shoulder, descending to the carriage-road at the chalets of *La Villette*, 1½ m. from Bionnay, 2 m. from Contamines. On the way down, there is a commanding view of the Val de Montjoie, extending upwards to the Bonhomme, while opposite is seen the pretty village of *St. Nicolas de Véroce*, at the base of Mont Joly.

**Contamines** (3927 ft.) is a scattered village with a handsome church, prettily situated on a commanding height.

[*Mont Joly* (8291 ft.), can be ascended in 3 to 4 hrs. by an easy track. Mules can go nearly to the top. It commands a noble view of the W. side of Mont Blanc, corresponding as a belvedere to the Crammont on the S. and the Brévent on the N. There is an *Inn* an hour below the top.

The *Col du Joly* leads by the valley of Haute Luce in 6 hrs. to Beaufort (Rte. 150).

An interesting excursion may be made to the *Glacier de Trélatête* (close to it is a small *Inn*), descending from it to Nant Borrant; or the *Col du Mont Tondu* (Rte. 142) may be passed to the Col de la Seigne. From the *Inn* the *Aiguille de Béranger* (11,257 ft.), may be ascended in



4 hrs. The *Aiguille* or *Dôme de Miage* (12,100 ft.), can be reached in a rather longer time, best direct from Contamines by the Frasse Glacier.]

From Contamines the carriage-road runs along the E. side of the Bon Nant (there is a footpath on the other side) as far as a bridge opposite the chapel of *Notre Dame de la Gorge*, situated at the end of a ravine, a romantic spot, shut in by rocks. Here the ascent to the Bonhomme properly begins. A very steep and rudely-paved path leads directly out of the ravine, step-wise, through a forest, and where it gains the open alp passes in a deep chasm the fall of the Bon Nant. Just above it is the Inn—

*Au Nant Borrant* 4780 ft. (rough). It stands on the verge of a steep descent, with a view down the valley; the scenery is wild and grand, and heightened in effect by the roar of the Bon Nant. A finer waterfall may be found in the torrent which descends from the Glacier of Trélatête. It may be reached in  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr., and it will not be necessary to return to the Inn in ascending to the Bonhomme.

Above Nant Borrant the path, after completing the ascent from the chapel, runs nearly on a level through a rich upland vale between clumps of fir. A rough track mounts to the humble Inn of the *Chalet à la Barne*, where the traveller has reached the limit of trees. To the W. rises a fantastic ridge, which gives name to the pass, one of its pinnacles being called *Le Bonhomme*, another (l. of it), *La Femme du Bonhomme*. [A track mounts l. to the *Col de la Fenêtre*, leading to Beaufort by the valley of Haute Luce (Rte. 150), and further on, another col, approached by a long slope of débris, leads to the same place by the beautiful Val de la Gitte, joining the path from the Col de la Sauce.] A rocky defile leads to the *Plan Jovet*,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Nant Borrant, a grassy basin (6437 ft.), in which are found the *Chalet du Mont Jovet* and a little

lake, the *Lac Noir*. The Vaudois, under Henri Arnaud, passed by these huts in Aug. 1689 on the 'Glorieuse Rentrée' (10 days from the Lake of Geneva to their valleys), having come from the Lake of Geneva by St. Jeoire, Cluses, Sallanches, Mégève, the Col de Véry, and the Col de la Fenêtre (Rte. 150). On Aug. 20th they crossed the Col du Bonhomme to Séez in the Isère valley at the foot of the Little St. Bernard. Upwards the valley is closed by the Bonhomme; and, on looking back, the whole length of the Val de Montjoie is seen bounded by the peaks of the Varens above St. Martins. [To the E. is a short cut to Mottets by the *Col d'Enclaves* (8813 ft.), just N. of the Tête d'Enclaves, a rough ascent from the Lac Noir of about 1 hr., descent of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.] The path of the Bonhomme leads up a steep acclivity for 20 min., to the *Plan des Dames* (6746 ft. above the sea), where a cairn, or heap of stones, has existed from time immemorial. Tradition says, that a great lady with her suite perished here in a storm, and gave name to the fatal spot.

Another wild ascent of 40 min. leads up herbless slopes to what, from below, seems to be the col, but it is the *Col de la Sauce* (6601 ft.), between *Le Bonhomme* and *Mont Roselette*, leading W. to Beaufort (Rte. 150). Bearing l. from this point, another hr. S.E. across a pathless waste brings the traveller to the cross on the

*Col du Bonhomme*, (8147 ft.), where the view opens S. towards the valley of the Isère and *Mont Pourri* (12,428 ft.), one of the most beautiful peaks in the Alps, flanked by the *Aiguille de la Sassièrè*. The higher slopes of the Bonhomme may at times be dangerous. They are occasionally swept by the most violent winds, which stir up those fearful snow-eddies called 'tourmentes.' A guide should be taken if there is the least prospect of bad weather, but even a guide may here lose the way.

This happened on the 13th of September, 1830, when two English gentlemen, with guides, perished from cold and exhaustion whilst crossing the pass.

[To Mottets and the Col de la Seigne, the shorter course by an hour is the *Col des Fours* (8891 ft.), and this is frequently taken by those who wish to reach Courmayeur in one day from Nant Borrant. The track to it mounts l. from the Croix du Bonhomme, and descends to a bridge a little below Mottets. Descent steep and rough.]

To Chapieux the descent is over grass, and easy.

**Chapieux**, 4951 ft. This is a group of gaunt stone huts, one of which is the *douane*, surrounded by wild and bare slate mountains. [The valley of Bellaval to the S., leads in 3 hrs. to Bourg St. Maurice, the latter part of the way by an excellent carriage-road.] The path up the stream leads in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to some huts and a little chapel, where the stream is crossed, and in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. more to the

*Chalets of Mottets* (6227 ft.), one house forming 2 *Inns*.

The paths from the Cols du Bonhomme, des Fours, d'Enclaves, and du Mont Tondu, all meet here. Above the blue ice of the Glacier des Glaciers is the *Aig. des Glaciers*; to the l. the small Glacier de la Lanchette, and *Mont Tondu*.

The ascent to the *Col de la Seigne* lies over grass. The summit,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Mottets, is 8132 ft. above the sea, on a ridge which runs down from the *Aig. des Glaciers* and separates the waters which feed the Rhone from those which are tributaries of the Po. [From the col a slight ascent towards the S.E. suffices to reach the *Col de Charannes*, (8550 ft.), leading direct in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to La Thuille, on the Little Saint Bernard road (Rte. 149).] It commands the vista of the Allée Blanche and Val Ferret for 18 m., and of the S. side of Mont Blanc, which, rising 11,000 ft. above the Allée Blanche,

without being absolutely a precipice, is in great part too steep to allow snow to rest on it.

This view has been compared with that of the Vale of Chamonix from the Col de Voza. It is far more stern and savage. The valley is in great part ruined by glaciers and avalanches. Mont Blanc itself is more imposing but less beautiful, though the enormous buttress-like masses of its southern aiguilles surpass in grandeur the rock-scenery on its Savoyard flanks. The chief features of the range in the Allée Blanche are,—directly to the l. the *Aig. des Glaciers* and *Aig. de Trélatête*, from which streams the *Gl. de l'Allée Blanche*; the great *Gl. de Miage*; the summit of *Mont Blanc*, supported by the buttresses of *Mont Brouillard* and *A. de Péteret*, the last of the boldest form; and, beyond it, the *Aig. du Géant* and *Grandes Jorasses*.

The *Allée Blanche* (properly 'La lex Blanche': *lex* or *lei*, according to M. Durier, signifies an enclosed pasture, hence in the mountains a pasture hemmed in by precipices; cf. *Pigne de la Lée* or *l'Allée*, near Zinal, Aléfroide, *la lex froide*, in Dauphiné), consists of three distinct basins. The traveller descends from the col, over slopes of grass, to the highest, which presents in its surroundings one of the wildest and most solitary scenes imaginable. To the l. are the *Pyramides Calcaires*, to the rt. bare and savage highlands. An extensive plain marks the site of a lake once formed here by the moraine of the *Gl. de l'Allée Blanche*, through which the river tumbles in a foaming rapid. [Hence to La Thuille on the Little St. Bernard road by the *Col de Charannes*.] At the head of this descent the stream is crossed to the rt. bank, and the path goes steeply down, with a fine view of Mt. Blanc and the *Gl. de Miage*, to the second basin. This is occupied at its lower end by the *Lac de Combal*, and walled in by the moraine of the *Gl. de Miage*, one of the most remarkable



in the Alps. The track skirts the S. shore of the lake to a very ancient dam and sluice at the outlet, from which a path ascends rt. to Courmayeur by the *Col de Chécruit*. The valley path crosses the dam, and then runs for nearly 2 m. down the side of the moraine, which is covered by fir-trees, and forms with the mountain-side a ravine through which the river rushes. The rest of the valley is filled by the rubbish left by the glacier, which is, however, not seen. The moraine ends on a beautiful green alp, with a small *Inn*—the *Cantine della Visaille*—from which there is a grand view of *A. de Péteret* (12,392 ft.), the Dru of the S. side. Below this point the valley is called *Val de Vény*, and is bordered by rich meadows on the rt. The third basin is a waste of stones thinly sprinkled with firs, and scored by numberless streams. Above it rise the precipices of the Mont Brouillard. At its lower end the mountains close (rt. another path to the *Col de Chécruit*), and the traveller enters the forest of St. Nicolas, covering the base of Mt. Chetif, from which are seen some of the finest views in the descent. The empty bed and huge moraines of the Gl. de la Brenva fill the depths of the valley, and above them tower the *A. de Péteret*, and other buttresses of Mt. Blanc. Before the foreground was spoilt by the retreat of the glacier, this was one of the most impressive scenes in the Alps. On a little terrace stands the chapel of *N. D. de Guérison* or *du Berrier*, whence the view is seen to perfection. The path now descends towards the opening between the Chetif and the Mont de la Saxe, through which the waters of Mt. Blanc flow into the Val d'Aosta, and crossing them to the baths of La Saxe, in 20 min. more, or  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the *Col de la Seigne*, reaches

Courmayeur (Rte. 134).

## ROUTE 141.

### CHAMONIX TO MARTIGNY OR VERNAYAZ.

- A. By the *Tête Noire*.
- B. By *Finhaut* and *Salvan*.
- C. By the *Col de Balme*.

There are several routes from Chamonix to Martigny, two of which divide at Argentière and meet again at the foot of the Forclaz in the Trient valley. The *Tête Noire* road is practicable for chars (Post carriage daily in 8 hrs. from Chamonix—16 fr. a place), and the surveys for a railway are now in progress; and there is a char-road by *Finhaut* and *Salvan* to Vernayaz; over the *Col de Balme* there is a mule-path. From Argentière to Martigny is about 7 hrs. by the first, and 8 hrs. by the last route. Travellers are often perplexed which to choose of these two passes. The general scenery of the *Tête Noire* is superior; but the *Col de Balme* has *one view* which surpasses any on the *Tête Noire*. There is again a choice of roads from the *Tête Noire* to the Rhone valley. The Forclaz may well be preferred by travellers leaving Chamonix, the Vernayaz route by those approaching it. The journey may be broken at the H. Royal du Châtelard, or at the *Tête Noire Inn*.

Pedestrians may solve the problem by proceeding from Chamonix to the *Tête Noire*; thence they may strike off right through meadows and across pasture to the *Inn* on the *Col de Balme*, adding thereby 2 to 3 hrs. to their walk.

A broad carriage-road lies up the vale of Chamonix, by *Les Praz*. It then mounts a wooded defile past the hamlet of *Tines* to that of *Les Iles*, and, crossing the Arve, reaches by a gentle ascent the village of

**Argentière** (3963 ft.). Here the diminished Glacier of Argentière (on the l. bank of which is the little *Pavillon de Lognan*, a small *Inn*, whence the glacier can be visited) is seen streaming down from the

Aiguille d'Argentière and Le Tour Noir, and there is also a fine view of Mont Blanc.

### A. The Tête Noire.

Beyond Argentière the path to the Col de Balme turns off rt. The road of the Tête Noire rises rapidly, with fine views of the Aiguille Verte to the miserable hamlet of *Tréléchamp*, and in 3 hrs. from Argentière attains the

*Col des Montets* (4741 ft.), the lowest point in the ridge connecting the chain of Mt. Blanc with the Aiguilles Rouges, and dividing the waters of the Rhone and the Arve. At the Col de Balme the same ridge is crossed at a point nearly 2500 ft. higher.

A little beyond the crest, near Poyaz, the savage valley of Bérard opens to the l. The Eau Noire descends from it into the head of the Vallorcine, and,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s walk up the stream, forms the beautiful *Cascade de Bérard*, tumbling in the pine-forest down a bed of granite rocks. On looking up this valley, the snows of the lofty *Buet* lying behind the Aiguilles Rouges are seen. [The ascent of the *Buet* may be made by following the Eau Noire upwards to the *Inn* at the Pierre à Bérard, where a traveller can pass the night (Rte. 138 k). The valley of Bérard leads also by the *Col de Salenton* to Servoz through the valley of the Diosaz.]

A short descent from the Col des Montets leads to

**Vallorcine** (4101 ft.), the chief village of the valley, much exposed to avalanches of snow. Its church having been more than once swept away, a strong rampart of masonry and earth has been raised to defend it from similar catastrophes. The first mention of a church here occurs in 1272, when one was built by the prior of Chamonix for a German-speaking colony from the Valais, which settled in the valley. The date of this settlement is unknown, but as the first recorded transactions with the priory date from 1264 and

1285, perhaps the settlers were part of the 13th cent. emigration, of which traces still remain in the Grisons, and the valleys S. of Monte Rosa. Possibly like the German colonies at Sixt and Abondance, they were Teutonic Burgundians driven up into the hills and not Romanized like the Burgundians generally. By 1330 the prior had established his authority over them, and henceforth they form part of the community of Chamonix, their history being largely made up of quarrels with the herdsmen of Finhaut and Salvan, which belonged to the abbey of St. Maurice.

The road now descends more rapidly, enters the forest, and soon reaches the little *Inn* of

*H. de la Cascade*, half-way to Martigny, where travellers may visit the *Fall of the Barberine*,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to the l., loftier but not so beautifully situated as the Cascade de Bérard. The stream descends between the mountains *Le Perron* (W.) and *Bel Oiseau* (E.), and its glen runs up to *Mt. Ruan* and the *Tour Sallières*. [By the Val Barberine Sixt may be reached over the *Col du Grenairon* through the Emosson glen, or by the difficult *Col de Tanneverge*, farther N.; and Champéry by the *Col de la Tour Sallières*, a glacier pass at the head of the valley, between the Tour Sallières, and Mt. Ruan.]  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. beyond the H. de la Cascade is a larger and very good house, the

*H. Suisse* at *Châtelard*, close to an old barrier gate and redoubt, marking the frontier of Savoy and the Valais. This is a beautiful part of the road. The valley is contracted to a defile, which is richly clothed with forest, and overhung by the savage rocks of the *Perron* and *Bel Oiseau*. There are turfy green knolls and a clear rushing torrent, and S.W. the peaks of the Aiguilles Rouges. [Here the path by the Eau Noire to Vernayaz strikes off to the l. (see below B).] The char-road goes through the old archway and winds upwards, with a charming view, to a short tunnel in a situation of singular grandeur. 10



min. beyond the tunnel (Roche Percée) is the

*Hôtel de la Tête Noire* (4003 ft.), one of the usual halting-places between Chamonix and Martigny (about 4 hrs. from Chamonix). Near the inn are the *Gorges Mystérieuses du Triège* (1 fr. admission), very striking and picturesque, and worth a visit; it is possible to pass through them and so reach Finhaut. On the hill-side, just above the inn is the path already mentioned leading to the Col de Balme, which anyone staying here should ascend for a short distance. On the other side is a path which crosses the deep valley and joins the bridle-rte. to Vernayaz.

At this point the road quits the valley of the Eau Noire to ascend its tributary the Trient, which forces its way at a great depth below the road. The traveller turns abruptly into the dark forest of Trient, passing round the shoulder of a mountain covered with forests: this shoulder is called the Tête Noire, and forms part of the *Croix de Fer* (9218 ft.), the highest point between the rtcs. of the Col de Balme and Tête Noire. He ascends through the dense forest for 20 min. and then emerging into the open valley crosses the stream to

**Trient** (4249 ft.), seated on rich meadows between forests and precipices, in view of the Glacier du Trient, which closes the valley. A steep ascent leads in 30 min. to the second pass—

The Col de la Forclaz, 4997 ft. (a small Inn). [From the Forclaz or from Trient, the Glacier du Trient can be gained in 1½ hrs. Thence Champex can be reached in 4 or 5 hrs. by the *Fenêtre d'Arpette*, or the Col des Ecandies, or the Orny Club hut attained, or the rtcs. of the Coldu Tour or of the *Fenêtre de Saleinaz* rejoined. From Trient the glacier Col des Grands also leads to the Tour glacier.]

[The traveller who is going to the Great St. Bernard may from this point agreeably vary the hackneyed rte. by Martigny and Sembrancher, by crossing the mountain on the rt.

to the Lake of Champex. It is a rough bridle-path of 4 or 5 hrs. to Orsières. Ladies should sleep the previous night at Châtelard or the Tête Noire. From the Forclaz the path diverges and gradually ascends, and between the chalets of *La Giète* and *Bovine* affords a more extensive and magnificent view than that from the Forclaz. Milk in abundance can be got at Bovine. A little further, the path descends by sharp zigzags to a torrent which it crosses by a plank-bridge. Thence it runs parallel to, but above, the torrent, and descends to the valley of Champex.

The *Catogne* (8402 ft.), which rises over the Great St. Bernard road, is connected with the Mont Blanc chain, by a low ridge, to which the valley of Champex runs up. Close to its summit lies the secluded and most beautiful little *Lake of Champex*, set in a fringe of firs, with the splendid Combin towering in the distance behind it. Here several Inns have been opened. (For details as to Champex see Rte. 135 under Orsières). From the lake a rapid descent of ¾ hr. leads to Orsières.]

From the Forclaz the view is limited, but ½ hr. lower down, the long course of the Rhone through the Valais, a prospect celebrated in the Alps, is displayed in perfection. The new road commands finer views than the rough old path, and is preferable even for pedestrians. The descent is at first through woods, and 1½ hr. is required to reach the Dranse at Martigny-Bourg. It is 1 m. of flat road to

**Martigny-Ville** (Rte. 56). It takes 2½ hrs. to ascend from Martigny to the Forclaz, 1½ hr. to descend.

### B. By Finhaut and Salvan.

The pass of the Tête Noire to Martigny may be advantageously varied by following the stream of the Eau Noire downwards into the valley of the Rhone, through a very beautiful valley, avoiding Martigny and shortening the distance to the Lake of Geneva. From Châtelard to Vernayaz is about 4 hrs. (char-road).

At the *Hôtel du Châtelard* the roads separate: that to the l., leading to Vernayaz, begins at once to ascend, and very soon the church and village of Finhaut are seen. The road is well laid out. A steep ascent by zigzags takes you, in 45 min., to the highest point of the pass (4262 ft.). Thence a descent, and then an ascent brings you, in 45 min., to **Finhaut** (4590 ft.). The *Gorges du Triège* are very striking, and worth seeing (admission 1 fr.); it is possible to pass through them and so reach the *Tête Noire Inn*. Then follows an ascent of about 10 min., from the summit of which is a fine view into the ravines below and up to the mountains above. From the l. side of the Trient glen, the upper part of the valley appears like a narrow black trench, with a distant view of Mont Blanc filling up the depression of the Col des Montets, through which the road of the *Tête Noire* passes. Examples of 'glacier markings,' interesting to the geologist, may be observed on the rocks. After a steep descent of 45 min. through fine pine-woods, the little village of *Triquent* and the bridge over the *Triège* are reached. The bridge is at a great height above the stream, which comes tumbling down the rocks above and below. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. of tolerably level road brings you to **Salvan** (3035 ft.). This delightfully situated village has become a very favourite resort of recent years. Many pretty excursions may be made from it, as well as easy ascents commanding fine views. In particular the excursion to the *Creuse chalets* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.) and that to the *Salanfe* pastures (3 hrs.) are recommended. The latter brings you to the foot of the *Dent du Midi*, any of the summits of which may be ascended hence (the highest, 10,696 ft., in 5 hrs.), or Champéry reached in 8 or 9 hrs., by the *Col de Clusanfe* or *Sézanfe* or *Susanfe* (8202 ft.) or St. Maurice by the *Col du Jorat* or *de Salanfe* (4 hrs.). The *Col de Barberine* leads to the head of the glen of that name, whence the *Mont*

*Ruan* (10,099 ft.), and *Tour Sallières* (10,588 ft.) may be climbed. Detailed information as to ascents and excursions may be found in Mons. Auguste Wagnon's very complete guidebook *Autour de Salvan* (1885). Beyond Salvan the road leaves the inaccessible gorge through which the Trient pours into the Rhone to the rt., and with fine views of the Rhone valley, descends (in under 1 hr.) by 52 zigzags down a wooded cliff upon the village and railway station of

**Vernayaz**, a little above the *Salanfe* or *Pissevache* waterfall, 2 m. from Martigny (Rte. 56).

### C. The Col de Balme.

From Argentière a steady, shadeless, and somewhat monotonous ascent of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. leads past Le Tour, the highest village in the valley, to the crest which forms the extreme N.E. boundary of the valley of Chamonix, and is known as the *Col de Balme* 7225 ft. (*Inn*: tolerable, but rather dear), commanding a noble view. Mont Blanc, from his summit to his base in the vale of Chamonix, rises before the traveller, towering high above the A. du Midi and its fellows. Nearer at hand are the *Aiguilles Verte* and *du Dru*. Below, the eye sweeps through the vale of Chamonix, to the *Col de Voza* at its other extremity, 15 m. distant. On the rt., are the *Aiguilles Rouges* and *Brévent*, and more to the rt. the snowy summit of the *Buet*. On the other side, the range of the *Bernese Alps* forms a feature in the panorama. It is a noble view, but its impressiveness has been somewhat exaggerated. To see it to the greatest advantage travellers should gain an eminence  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. N. under the *Croix de Fer* (9218 ft.), the highest point of the mountain mass between the *Col de Balme* and *Tête Noire*, which can itself be ascended, though care should be taken, as it was on its crumbling rocks that Herr Escher of Zürich perished in 1791. There are paths from the *Col* direct to the *Tête Noire*



*Inn*, and the H. du Châtelard near the Barberine waterfall.

The Col de Balme *Inn* is a good starting-point for the Col du Tour and Fenêtre de Saleinaz (Rte. 142), and the ascent of the peaks around the Orny and Tour Glaciers.

The descent into the Trient valley is by a steep but good path, commanding views of the *Glacier du Trient*. The char-road of the Forclaz is joined in about 1 hr. at the corner of the first zigzag.

The road seen on the rt., leading to the foot of the glacier, was made for the purpose of carrying the ice to the railway for exportation.

## ROUTE 142.

### THE GLACIER PASSES OVER THE MONT BLANC CHAIN.

The glacier group, of which Mont Blanc is the principal summit, is cut off by gaps which fall far below the snow level from the rest of the Alpine chain. Its limits may be clearly traced on the accompanying map, from which it will also be evident that between the Forclaz and the Col des Fours no rte. can be found across the chain which does not involve the passage of a glacier. Several, however, of the passes described below are perfectly safe for moderate pedestrians *with good guides*, and will be found less fatiguing than many mule-paths, while the scenery they offer is necessarily of great interest. They are at present priced in the tariff at from 30 to 60 frs. per guide; this includes return; 10 fr. is taken off when the traveller retains the guide for further excursions.

a. The Col du Mont Tondou (9003 ft.) is a convenient short cut on the rte. to Chamonix by the Cols de la Seigne and du Bonhomme, avoiding the dull part of that journey. A competent guide is, of course, required, but the glacier presents little diffi-

culty to fair walkers. It is 10 hrs. from Courmayeur, or  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the Col de la Seigne to the Pavillon de Trélatête. From the Col de la Seigne the pass is seen to the rt. under *Mont Tondou*, but to turn the walls which fence in the alp, it is first necessary to mount awhile N.E. towards the *Aig. des Glaciers* (12,579 ft.). The track then bears l. along the mountain side to the small *Glacier de la Lanchette*, which is ascended to the final rocks. These are steep, but otherwise easy. In the view from the col, Mt. Pourri and other Graian peaks rise grandly, and Mt. Blanc is seen between the Aiguilles de Miage and de Trélatête. The rocky point N.E. is worth climbing. The descent is by a small glacier to the great stream of the *Glacier de Trélatête*, which is traversed as far as the ice-fall, when the moraine and rocks on the rt. or l. bank are followed to the *Pavillon de Trélatête*, 1 hr. from Contamines. Owing to the diminution in the glaciers and the consequent extent of rough ground to be traversed it is said now to be preferable to descend to Mottets rather than to attempt to traverse directly from the Col du Mont Tondou to the Col de la Seigne.

b. The Col de Trélatête, W. of the Aiguille of that name. This rte. generally offers great glacier difficulties, and cannot be recommended. The ridges surrounding the Trélatête Glacier have been crossed at other points by mountaineers.

c. Col de Miage (11,077 ft.). 16 hrs. from Chamonix to Courmayeur. Travellers usually sleep in the chalets on the N. side of the pass, 4 hrs. from Chamonix. This rte. leads over the high gap in the Mont Blanc chain, conspicuous from Sallanches. Mont Blanc is here united to the Trélatête group by a very narrow and steep-sided ridge or dyke, 1500 ft. in height. Its passage, formidable in appearance, presents no serious difficulties to trained climbers; but good guides are required. The ascent is by the N. Miage Gl.

and a rib of rocks. The descent on the S. side lies first down steep snow and rocks, and then along the great S. Miage Glacier. The views are not as fine as might be expected from the proximity of Mont Blanc, nor can the ice-scenery compare with that of the Col du Géant.

[The *rtes.* forced by mountaineers over the highest ridges of Mont Blanc, between the Col de Miage and the Col du Géant, are not here treated as passes.]

*d.* The *Col du Géant* (11,031 ft.) (50 fr.) is said to have been used in early times by smugglers and hunters. It was traversed in 1786 by an Englishman named Hill, and in 1787 by MM. Exchaquet and Bourrit (see *Alp. J.*, vol. ix. p. 87). De Saussure's seventeen days' residence on the summit (July 3–19, 1788) made it famous.

The *Col du Géant* is a magnificent pass through the heart of the Mont Blanc chain, its leading feature and difficulty being the ice-fall of the Gl. du Géant. It is called 14 or 15 hrs., but may be shortened 1½ hr. by sleeping at the Montenvers, and on the Italian side 2½ hrs. by starting from the Mont Fréty Inn. The hut on the summit also affords night quarters. As far as the Gl. du Géant the *rte.* is that to the Jardin. Here, bearing *rt.*, the traveller passes under the rocks of the Tacul near the E. bank of the glacier, in view of the wild passage he must make higher up. The broad glacier descends as a blue broken wall, with glittering points where the sun strikes its edges and spires. It rolls down under the heights of the Mont Blanc du Tacul, the Aig. du Midi, and Aig. du Géant, and between the ice-girt *Le Rognon* on the W., *La Noire Aiguille* on the E. It is now usually ascended on the W. side. The passage may occupy some hours, but usually 4 or 5 hrs. carry the traveller from the Tacul up the ice-fall, and over the *nevé*, past the solitary rock of *La Vierge* to the col (11,031 ft.). Here a substantial hut has been

erected, in which it is possible to sleep. Hence the view to the S. is most glorious. Far spreads the sea of Alps, of which the great near waves are on one hand the Graian peaks—the Mt. Pourri, Grivola, Grand Paradis; on the other the Pennines—the Grand Combin and Monte Rosa. Deep below lies Val d'Aosta, with its fields, forests, and villages. Close at hand rise the *Aiguilles Marbrées* and the obelisk of the *Aiguille du Géant* (13,186 ft.), which is ascended from here by means of continuous rope ladders. The descent is necessarily steep, but the rocks are good and not dangerous with ordinary care. To the *rt.* is the snow-slope on which occurred the fatal slip of 1860, when three travellers and Frédéric Tairraz were lost. The party had left the safe rocks in order to slide down the snow, but the proximate cause of the accident was that the rope was not tied to the guides, but merely held by them. On the track usually followed the rope is needless. The steepest part of the descent is towards the base of the buttress. Then comes the alp, and its grass slope to the Pavillon du Mt. Fréty (7301 ft.), 1½ hr. from Courmayeur.

*e.* There are several alternative passes for mountaineers at the head of the Mer de Glace. The finest of these is the *Col de la Tour Ronde*, crossing the crest either E. or W. of that prominent peak, and descending by the Brenva Glacier. This is a long but not very difficult route.

The others lie E. of the Col du Géant.

*f.* The *Col des Hirondelles*, visible from the Montenvers, passes under the Grandes Jorasses with descent by the Gl. de Freboutzie, and is difficult.

*g.* To the N. of this col, and leading from the head of the Leschaux Glacier are the difficult and very dangerous passes of the *Col des Grandes Jorasses*, the *Col de Leschaux*, and the *Col de Pierre Joseph*.

*h.* The *Col de Talèfre* is in the ridge



E. of the Jardin. The Aig. de Talèfre rises at the end of the rocks which separate the Glaciers of Talèfre and Leschaux, and this col lies between it and the Aig. de Triolet. The ascent is by a couloir, the descent at first by steep rocks, then by snow-slopes, and the l. bank of the W. branch of the Gl. de Triolet, crossing to rt. bank between the ice-falls.

i. The more difficult *Col de Triolet* lies just under the Aig. de Triolet, 4 hrs. from the Couvercle. The descent is by a curtain of ice and rocks to the E. branch of the Gl. de Triolet (5 hrs. to the valley).

j. The *Gl. d'Argentière* is nearly 7 m. in length, bounded W. by the chain of Les Droites and Les Courtes, between the Aig. Verte and Aig. de Triolet; E. by Aig. du Chardonnet, Aig. d'Argentière (12,799 ft.), Le Tour Noir, and Mont Dolent. It is twice as long as the Gl. du Tour, and far surpasses the Gl. de Saleinaz. The starting-point for its passes is the little *Inn* at the *Chalets de Lognan*, on the W. bank, to which there are tracks from Chamonix and Argentière.

The *Col du Chardonnet*, between the Aig. du Chardonnet and the Aig. d'Argentière, is not difficult. The way up is by a broken lateral glacier; the way down to the Saleinaz Glacier, along the base of steep rocks for 600 ft. The Gl. d'Orny is then gained by the *Fenêtre de Saleinaz*.

k. At the head of the Argentière Glacier are two more cols, which lead down to opposite sides of the Col Ferret. The *Col d'Argentière* (11,549 ft.) is at the S.E. corner, under Le Tour Noir, with descent by the Gl. de la Neuva to La Folly on the Swiss side. This pass is sometimes used as the first in the so-called 'high-level route' from Chamonix to Zermatt. On the N. side it is easy; but the descent to the Gl. de la Neuva requires experience and caution. It is an exceedingly fine pass, and the views of the A. Verte

during the ascent are of the grandest character.

l. The *Col Dolent*, at the S.W. angle, above the Gl. du Mont Dolent which leads down to the Italian Val Ferret, is a very difficult expedition, which has only been effected two or three times.

m. The *Col du Tour* to Orsières, by the Glaciers du Tour and d'Orny, is suited for ordinary pedestrians with guides, but not so the grander descent by the Gl. de Saleinaz. The pass is made from Argentière, or better from the Col de Balme, as the Gl. du Tour, which is much crevassed, is then reached by the E. bank at a higher point. It is called 10 hrs.' walking by the Gl. d'Orny, 13 or 14 by the Gl. de Saleinaz. The *Col* (5 hrs.) (10,991 ft.) lies just S. of the Aig. du Tour, and the descent is to the Gl. d'Orny, which is at a much higher level than the Gl. de Saleinaz. [The *Fenêtre de Saleinaz* (10,857 ft.), a narrow gap to the rt., gives access to the latter, and is well worth while to gain the view from this gap of the magnificent crags at the head, and of the brilliant *Aiguilles Dorées* to the S. of the Saleinaz.] An excellent Club hut has been built near the Gl. d'Orny, which aids mountaineers in the exploration of this end of the Mt. Blanc chain. From a small chapel at the foot of the Gl. d'Orny a wild hollow leads to a point below *Ville d'Issert*, 2 m. from Orsières. By the other rte. a steep slope of névé takes the traveller to the Gl. de Saleinaz, which is a grand stream of ice, broken by a fall of some 1500 ft. The descent is difficult by the rt. bank, then across to the l., from which the final drop to Praz de Fort is long and fatiguing. Of recent years the ranges at the N. end of the Mont Blanc chain have been thoroughly explored by a small band of Swiss climbers, and a general view of their exploits is given in an interesting article by M. E. J. P. de la Harpe, in the *Echo des Alpes* for 1887, to which reference should be made by

anyone desirous of visiting these regions from the conveniently placed Cabane d'Orny, or from the Inn on the Col de Balme.

The following is a fine, and not difficult, **Glacier excursion**:—Ascend Gl. du Tour. Pass through Fenêtre de Saleinaz. Cross Col du Chardonnet to Gl. d'Argentière. Return to Chamonix.

### ROUTE 143.

#### A. GENEVA TO SIXT.

#### B. CHAMONIX TO SIXT.

The **Valley of Sixt** deserves much more attention than it has yet received. The contrast between its scenery and that of Chamonix is singular and striking. It is beautiful, rich in waterfalls, forests, and botanical treasures, and girdled by precipitous limestone mountains. Carriage travellers have a choice of roads for entering and leaving it. From Sixt to Geneva there are 2 carriage-roads—the post-road by Bonneville of 41 m., the road by St. Jeoire of 40 m. Along the latter a steam tramway will be opened in 1891, from Annemasse to Samoëns. A diligence runs daily from Samoëns (leaving 5 A.M.) to Geneva in 7 hrs. : 1-horse carriage from Sixt to Samoëns, 6 fr. ; to Bonneville, 25 fr. A charming road crosses a low pass from Samoëns and descends the valley of the Dranse to Thonon (see Rte. 145). Consult on Sixt the charming volume by Mr. Justice Wills, called the *Eagle's Nest*. Useful information as to the peaks and passes of the valley will be found in Monsieur Auguste Wagnon's *Autour de Salvan* (1885), and MM. Schaub and Briquet's *Guide de l'Ascensionniste sur les Montagnes qui entourent le Lac de Genève* (2nd edition 1879).

#### A. Geneva to Sixt.

By Tramway.

At **Annemasse** ( $4\frac{1}{4}$  m.) the Chamonix road is left. At **La Bergue**

the road to Thonon branches left. [This is the starting-point for the ascent of *Les Voirons* (4777 ft.), a wooded mountain commanding fine views of the lake and surrounding Alps. The charms of its view were highly appreciated by the early explorers of the Savoy mountains, De Luc and Bourrit. The ascent occupies  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. There are 2 chalet Inns on the mountain, which is accessible from all sides.]

The road passing through pleasant country and crossing a low watershed descends into the valley of the Risse, a tributary of the Giffre before reaching ( $17\frac{1}{2}$  m.) **St. Jeoire**.

(The *Mole*, 5932 ft., can be ascended from here in 4 hrs.)

$2\frac{1}{2}$  m. further is **Mieussy**. The road mounts beside the Giffre to **Taninges** (2087 ft.), whence the Buet is well seen. It is a market-town of 2253 Inhab. The Carthusian nunnery of *Mélan*, founded in 1292 by Béatrix, Lady of Faucigny and ancestress of the third and last race of the Dauphins of the Viennois, is now a school.

[**Geneva to Sixt, by Bonneville**.—From Bonneville the Sixt road keeps along the rt. bank of the Arve. At *Marignier* it crosses the Giffre and ascends to the village of *Châtillon* on the low ridge separating these rivers ; hence there is a fine view. A short descent leads to *Taninges*, 12 m. from Bonneville by this route, and a fine carriage-road leads by *Les Gets* to the valley of the Dranse and Thonon (Rte. 145).

A road from Cluses joins the Bonneville road at Châtillon. This is the shortest carriage-route from Chamonix to Sixt.]

The smiling valley contrasts with the bold forms of the limestone ranges, and the scenery continues charming to

(35 m.) **Samoëns** (2490 ft.), 2540 Inhab., situated in a smiling valley surrounded by green hill-sides. There are many pleasant short



walks. The cascade of the *Nant d'Ant* is worth a visit ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.) The *Mont Gréyou* or *Criou* (7362 ft.),  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., commands a view of Mont Blanc. [For the routes from Samoëns to Champéry and Thonon see Rtes. 143 and 144.]

The road to Sixt mounts through the picturesque defile of Les Tines, and in about 5 m. reaches Sixt.

**Sixt** (2484 ft.) is but a small village, not so large as the neighbouring hamlet of *Salvagny*. It grew up round a monastery of Austin Canons Regular, founded 1144 by Ponce de Faucigny, and secularized 1793. In the churchyard of the parish church is buried *Albanis Beaumont* (d. 1811), who often came here and published many volumes on his travels in the Alps, some of them splendidly illustrated. It is said that there was once a German-speaking colony at Sixt (see Rte. 141, under *Vallorcine*). It is beautifully situated under a precipitous steep on the Giffre Bas, at a point where the 2 valleys of the Giffre converge like a **V**. A traveller standing on its little bridge sees to the rt. or W. a lovely green mountain; S., the *Pointe de Salles*; S.E., between the 2 valleys, the wild heights of *Les Frêtes* or *Grenairon*, and N.E., at the head of the Giffre Bas, the *Pointe de Tanneverge*. Both valleys abound in *waterfalls*; perhaps the one most worth a visit is that of *Rouget*, 1 hr.'s distance from Salvagny, on the old path to the Col d'Anterne, and above it is another, beautiful both in shape and name—*La Pleureuse* (the *Weeper*), which fills the air with gentle murmurs.

**Excursions.**—*a.* To the *Fer à Cheval* (4 m.). Carriage there and back, 8 fr. 4 hrs.' ride on a mule to the *Fond de la Combe* (6 m.) and back; mule with guide, 8 fr. A very remarkable scene, which every one should visit. A gentle ascent by char-road leads up the fertile valley of the Giffre Bas, passing 2 villages. On the rt. is the *Grenairon*,

on the l. the *Pointe de Sambet* (see below), and, on looking back, the *Pointe de Pelouse* is seen. In 3 m. the road grows rough and steeper, as through a wild wood it enters the *Fer à Cheval*. It reaches a central point at *La Croix des Pellis*, the humble monument of 180 persons, buried with the village of *Entre Deux Nants*, 1602, by a fall from the rocks of the *Tête Noire*, 2 m. distant. This marks the spot where the avalanche stopped, and a chapel near by is still the object of an annual pilgrimage. The traveller here stands before a semicircular wall of precipices, rising 1000 ft. sheer from the valley, and surmounted by other cliffs and green terraces, which reach their greatest elevation at the N.E. angle in the *Pic de Tanneverge* (9784 ft.). At the opposite end, above a series of wild gullies, is a point called *Le Cheval Blanc* (9321 ft.), and beyond it a peep of the snows of the *Buet*. Streams fall from ledge to ledge, and leap down the final precipice, the nearest to the spectator being the *Méridienne*, on the face of the *Tanneverge*. There are pastures as well as glaciers above the cliffs.

From the *Fer à Cheval* the valley bends to the l., terminating in about 2 m. in the *Fond de la Combe*, shut in by lofty precipices. On the rt. (E.) is *Mont Ruan*, on the l. the *Pointe de Sambet*. On these apparently inaccessible heights mines have been worked, their adits being reached along narrow ledges, and it was on *Mont Ruan* that Jacques Bahmat, 'the hero of Mont Blanc,' lost his life in 1834, at the age of 72, seeking for gold. In returning, a visit to the source of the last waterfall to the rt. before reaching Sixt, will repay a walk of 15 min. up rather steep grass slopes and through a beech-wood. The path turns off at the mill. The water forming the cascade wells out of a single hole in the rock, and is said to be limpid at all seasons.

*b.* To the *Lac de Gers*, 3 hrs.' ride.

The ascent is beautiful, but the lake itself uninteresting. The path winds up the mountain for 50 min., passing the cascade of Pieu or Gers, nearly hidden in a deep cleft. A ravine is then crossed, and the ascent continued to the pastures of **Portes**, 50 min. Hence there is a very fine view of the Buet, Mont Blanc, and Pointe de Salles. Hence to the Lac de Gers is a walk of 45 min. over ground nearly level. No guide required.

c. To the *Buet* (Rte. 138), 7 or 8 hrs. In 2 hrs. from Sixt the *Chalets des Fonds* (4431 ft.) (a small *Inn*) are reached. They are near Mr. Wills's house. Hence there are 2 paths to the summit, one (the usual way) by the *Col de Léchaud* (7490 ft.) (which leads down the Diosaz glen to Servoz), the other and best is by the Baux Prés, direct to the Lebau Glacier.

Travellers who are not going to Chamonix should ride to the head of the *Vallée des Fonds*.

### Ascents.

The *Pointe de Sambet* (7730 ft.), opposite the Fer à Cheval, has a very remarkable as well as magnificent view. Mule-path in 2 hrs. to the *Salvador* chalets, 1 hr. from the top. In 1 or 2 hrs. more, the higher and finer point of *Les Avaudrues* (8767 ft.) may be reached from *Salvador*.

The *Pointe de Pelouse* (8120 ft.) to the S.W., is another most commanding and easy peak.

The *Pte. de Tanneverge* (9784 ft.) may be ascended in 6 hrs. from the *Col de Sagerou*, by the Glacier of Prazon, but best in 2½ hrs. from the *Col de Tanneverge* to the S.E. The *Pointe de Salles* (7782 ft.) can be reached without difficulty in 2 hrs. from the chalets of the same name on the way to the Portettaz or *Col du Dérochoir* (see below), as can also the higher *Tête de l'Ane* (9064 ft.).

**Passes.**—Several passes lead out of the Fer à Cheval. The *Col du Grenairon* leads from the green

hollow l. of the centre to the *Emosson*, and then to the Barberine glen, which is descended on the rt. bank to the *Tête Noire* path. The rocks on the Sixt side, which look so formidable, are not very difficult. The ascent to the other pass, the *Col de Tanneverge* (7845 ft.) is by no means easy, passing along the ledges on the face of the *Pointe de Tanneverge*. There is a double pass, the *Col de Léchaud* (7490 ft.), and the *Col de Salenton* (8120 ft.), which passes S. of that mountain to the *Pierre à Bérard*. 10 or 11 hrs. may be allowed by these passes to the Barberine *Inn*.

At the head of the *Fond de la Combe* is the *Col de Sagerou*, leading to Champéry in 9 or 10 hrs. from Sixt. The track mounts l. by rocky steps called *Pas de Boré* to the *Chalets de Boré* on the first shelf, and to a conspicuous rock, the *Pierre du Dard*, on the second shelf. Then rt. to the *Chalets de Vogealle* (3¼ hrs. from Sixt), and over turf and débris to the *Col* (1 hr.) (7917 ft.). This is a saddle of black earth, abutting E. on Mont Ruan, N. and S. falling to precipices. View of *Mont Blanc*, *Buet*, &c. The descent to the desolate glen of Sézanfe or Clusanfe or Susanfe requires care, and in snow may be dangerous; but the warm, black soil is generally free of snow. It is steep for 50 yds. to the brink of the cliffs, which are skirted (turning l.) to a gap where they are descended, an iron rod being fixed at the most awkward point (½ hr.). Then straight down the débris to the glen, as there is another cliff to the rt. The glen runs E. towards the *Dent du Midi*, and a considerable glacier on the flank of the *Tour Sallières*, and then opens l. to a precipitous gorge, falling to the *Val d'Illiez*. This is descended by a remarkable stairway called the *Pas d'Encel*, down a series of cliffs, S.W. of the *Dent du Midi*. Irons are placed at the most awkward points, and there is no difficulty. At the base of the rocks are the chalets and pasture of *Bona-*



veau (1 hr.), from which a good path descends by steep forest to Champéry.

There is another pass from the Vogealle chalets, the *Col de l'Oulaz*, reached by bearing l. (instead of rt.) towards a chimney of rock called *Golette de l'Oulaz*. This is climbed, and then snow-slopes to the col. A steep descent leads to the chalets of *Berroix* and *Barmaz*, in the central of the 3 diverging branches of the Val d'Illeiez, whence you can descend to Champéry direct, though it is easier to cross a second ridge and rejoin the path of the *Col de Coux* (Rte. 144).

The *Chaîne des Fiz*, dividing the valley of the Arve from that of the Giffre, though steep at the sides, forms extensive undulating pastures around the summits, and between the *Aig. de Varens* and *Pte. de Salles*, a very remarkable plain, called the *Désert de Platé*, of bare limestone rock cut by parallel fissures. There are several passes across the range to the valley of the Arve, described below in the reverse direction.

a. From Cluses, in about 9 hrs. The ascent is from *Bellegarde*, 5 m. on the road to Chamonix. In a hollow above the cliffs the path divides, rt. leading through pine-forest, by *Colonnaz*, to (2 hrs. 30 m.) the chalets and pretty *Lac de Flaine*, which is drained by a subterranean channel. Thence 3 hrs. E.N.E., across the ridge S. of 'les Grands Vents' (the *Col de Flaine*, or *des Grands Vents*, or *d'Arbéron*), to the *Lac de Gers*, 2 hrs. from Sixt. A local guide is expedient.

The *Lac de Flaine* is also reached from *St. Martin*, near Sallanches, the path commencing beyond the cascade of *Nant d'Arpenaz*, 3 m. towards Cluses. It bears. l. to *Luth*, and from the gorge beyond, rt. to the lake.

b. A finer rte. from *St. Martin* ascends to the *Chalets de la Barne*, which stand apparently in a *cul de sac* of cliffs. But these, though difficult, can be climbed to the higher *Chalets de Platé*, beyond which lies the *Col de*

*Monthieu*, between the *Croix de Fer* or *Pointe de Platé* (8376 ft.) and the *Pointe du Colloney* (8832 ft.). The latter summit commands a superb panorama, and is easily accessible on the N. (A good walker may reach the *Colloney* in 5 hrs. from *St. Gervais* and descend to Sixt in 4 more.) The traveller has here reached the singular *Désert de Platé*, from which he can descend either by the *Lac de Flaine*, *Lac de Gers*, or *Vallon de Salles*, but a guide will be necessary.

c. The finest of all these paths is from *Passy*, a village between *St. Martin* and *Servoz*. It ascends the wooded glen of *Plaine Joux* to precipices, up which a curious but safe staircase path leads to the *Chalets de Platé*, 3 hrs. from *Passy*. Thence ascent to *La Portettaz*, a depression in the ridge connecting the *Rochers des Fiz* with the *Aig. de Varens*. This commands a remarkable view of the *Désert de Platé*. The descent is by the *Chalets de Salles*, 2½ hrs. from Sixt.

d. *Col du Dérochoir* (7343 ft.). The chalets of *La Plaine Joux* at the base of this interesting pass are approached by a beautiful and easy forest-path from *Passy*, or a steep cork-screw track from *Servoz*. Above the alp, whence there is one of the noblest views of *Mont Blanc*, a steep and pathless ascent through the ruins of the great rock-fall of 1751 leads to the foot of the low range of cliffs that crests the range of the *Rochers des Fiz* (or *Fys*). 100 yards W. of their lowest point a stoneman marks the point at which they are easily climbed. The descent leads to the chalets of *Salles*.

## B. Chamonix to Sixt.

Carriage travellers must go round by Cluses and Taninges, but for mule-riders the following rte. is preferable.

Chamonix to Sixt by the *Col d'An-*

terne, is a ride of  $10\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. (not including halts), a walk of from 9 to 10 hrs., by an excellent mule-path. A guide costs 18 fr., a mule 18 fr. (including back-fare), but a guide is not wanted, as the path is well-marked. Provisions should be taken. The ascent from Chamonix is described in Rte. 138, e, as far as *Planpraz* (an Inn), whence a few zigzags lead up to the cleft of mica-schist, which forms the

*Col du Brévent* (6975 ft.). Hence Mont Blanc is seen through a framework of rock, and in the opposite direction the wild mountains over which the course lies to the Col d'Anterne. They are bounded by the precipices of the *Rochers des Fys*, which terminate over Servoz in the *Aig. de Varens*, over Sixt in the *Pointe de Salles*. The path, passing 2 or 3 hovels, called *Chalets d'Arlevé*, descends to a lonely bridge in the depths of the valley of the Diosaz, which joins the Arve at Servoz. The ferns form quite a jungle, and the sow-thistles are 6 ft. high. This valley runs up to the *Buet*, which may be reached by turning rt. and crossing the *Col de Salenton*. Beyond the bridge a green alp is climbed, past the cattle-chalets of *Moëde* (fossil ferns in a gully to the rt.), and then, where the path from Servoz falls in, the track bears to the rt., and mounts in zigzags to the

*Col d'Anterne* (7428 ft.), 'one of the blackest, barrenest, and most desolate spots in the world.' It, however, commands a grand view of Mont Blanc and the *Glacier des Bossons*, which, at this distance, appear in their true proportions, rising nobly over the Brévent. Farther l. are the *Aiguilles Rouges*, and close to the col the remarkable precipices of the *Rochers des Fys*, the pass lying over a ridge which connects this chain with the *Buet*. A track from Servoz joins that from Chamonix below the col.

The descent winds over bare and desolate ground, by the lonely *Lac d'Anterne* to the *Bas du Col d'Anterne*.

This is a fine point of view on the *Plateau d'Anterne*, just opposite the *Buet*, which forms a cirque of precipices. To the l. is the *Pointe de Salles*. A steep slope brings the traveller to the *Chalets de Grasse Chèvre*, from which the old path descended l. along the face of the *Pointe de Salles*. The present bridle-road turns sharply rt. down the *Chemin de Grasse Chèvre*, partly through an old pine-forest, to the head of the *Vallée des Fonds*. Here it crosses the *Ruisseau des Fonds*, and falls in with the path from the Col de Léchaud and *Buet*. It passes the *Chalets des Fonds* and Mr. Wills's 'Eagle's Nest' (4541 ft., or 2000 ft. above Sixt), and after a short but sharp descent to the junction of the *Ruisseau* with the *Giffre Haut*, runs down this remarkably deep and narrow valley, most of the way through dense wood. About half-way to Sixt the traveller passes the *Croix d'Espérit*. Emerging from the forest he crosses the dry bed of a torrent from the *Grenairon*, opposite the lowest of 3 waterfalls which descend from the *Vallon de Salles*, and enters the large village of *Salvagny*. Here the valley opens, and in a few minutes more the path reaches the *Giffre Bas* at Sixt.

## ROUTE 144.

### SIXT TO CHAMPÉRY AND MONTHEY —VAL D'ILLIEZ.

Hrs.		Samoëns
$2\frac{1}{2}$	. .	Col de la Golèse
$2\frac{1}{2}$	. .	Col de Coux
2	. .	Champéry
—		
7		

There is a rough pass to Champéry by the Col de Sagerou (Rte. 143), but ordinary tourists prefer the mule-path over the Col de la Golèse and the Col de Coux.

From Sixt to Samoëns (5 m.) there is a carriage-road (Rte. 143). There



is a turn up to the char-road to the Col de la Golèse, a little short of Samoëns. The char-road ascends through a gorge and woods. [Rt. up a savage glen is a track to the *Golette de l'Oulaz* (Rte. 143).] Where the road ends the path turns l., crossing a little bridge, and leaving a hamlet in a pretty dell rt., and mounts a channel of loose stones between meadows. By a short but steep cut to the rt. the path may be considerably shortened. When the pastures are reached the track improves, and, turning sharp rt. at some chalets, winds towards the col, with a fine view of a range of limestone precipices. The Col de la Golèse is 5482 ft. high, and on the other side of it are some chalets, where wine, milk, and bread and cheese are sometimes to be had. The traveller now sees to the N.E. the opposite and higher ridge of the valley of the Dranse, which separates him from the Val d'Illicz, together with the path and the cross on the Col de Coux. Looking back over Samoëns, the *Croix de Fer*, above St. Martin, is a striking peak.

The path goes pretty straight down the valley, and about half-way down is a sulphureous spring. About 800 ft. below the col the path winds to the rt. under some cliffs, and then strikes right up through the woods of the opposite valley.

The Col de Coux (6313 ft.) has a far finer view than that from the Col de la Golèse. Just below the col, which is on the boundary of Savoy and the Valais, is a small chalet for refreshment. The descent to Champéry takes nearly 2 hrs., and is at first, and at two other points, rather steep. It is a very pretty walk, with view of the Dent du Midi and Tour Sallières. At one point the path rises, but soon falls again, and winds to the rt. to

**Champéry** (3452 ft.). This village of about 50 wooden houses, some very old, lies on a mountain shelf, high above the torrent, in the

midst of beautiful scenery, and directly opposite the Dent du Midi.

Just above Champéry the valley is split into 3 branches. 1st, rt., to the Col de Coux; 2nd, to the chalets of Barmaz, Golette de l'Oulaz, and Dents Blanches; 3rd, l., to the chalets of Bonaveau, Dent du Midi, Tour Sallières and Cols de Sézanfe and Sagerou. Just below the village the united streams from these sources run under a long wall of rock, above which are pastures, and then the precipices of the Dent du Midi.

Monsieur A. de Claparède has published an excellent guide-book to the valley entitled, *Champéry et le Val d'Illicz* (2nd edition, 1890). Monsieur Wagnon's *Autour de Salvan*, and MM. Schaub et Briquet's *Guide de l'Ascensionniste sur les montagnes qui entourent le Lac de Genève*, are useful for hints as to mountain ascents.

*Pleasant and easy Walks.*—a. To La Galerie Défago, a terrace cut on the precipice above the stream. b. To the Croix de Culet or Roc d'Ayerne, 3 hrs.; fine view of Dent du Midi. c. Up to the Chalets de Barmaz. d. Chalets de Bonaveau. Descend to a bridge near a fine waterfall, and so back to Champéry, 3 hrs. e. To the Lac d'Anthémoz, under the precipices of the Dent du Midi, 4 hrs.

The chief excursion is the ascent of the Dent du Midi (10,696 ft.), of which the rugged and seemingly inaccessible crags form so striking an object from the E. end of the Lake of Geneva. The most direct rte., but fit only for good mountaineers, is up the rocks opposite Champéry by the Croix de Zelèze, in 5½ hrs. The ordinary rte. (guide 18 fr., with descent to Sixt, 28 fr.) passes the Chalets of Bonaveau (chalet Inn), 1½ hr., and the ravine beyond them by the curious staircase of the Pas d'Enfer or d'Encel to the glen of Susanfe, and thence, turning l., full in view of the Tour Sallières, climbs the S.W. buttress of the mountain by long slopes of débris. The ascent is laborious, but free from danger. It is generally made in 6 or 7 hrs., and may be shortened by sleeping at the

chalets of Bonaveau, where there are civil people and tolerable quarters. From Champéry the guides usually start at 1 A.M. The view is magnificent, including the greater part of the Pennine chain and the nearer Alps of Bex.

Descent can be made by the *Col de Susanfe* (8202 ft.), between the *Dent du Midi* and *Tour Sallières*, to *Vernayaz* or to the *Tête Noire* by *Salvan* (Rte. 141), or by the *Col de Sagerou* (Rte. 143) to *Sixt*.

The *Tour Sallières* (10,588 ft.), not seen from Champéry, but rising just S. of the *Dent du Midi*, can be ascended, but is much easier from the S. side, and the same applies to the *Mont Ruan* (10,099 ft.). Guide 40 fr. Between it and *Mont Ruan* is the glacier pass of *Col de la Tour Sallières*, leading to the *Barberine Inn* (Rte. 141).

The *Dent de Bonaveau* (8134 ft.) is another fine point of view on the N. side of the *Susanfe* glen, and nearly opposite the *Col de Sagerou*; it may be easily ascended from Champéry in 5 hrs.

The beautiful **Val d'Illiciez** is about 9 m. in length from Champéry to Monthey. N. of it is the **Val de Morgins** with a frequented *hotel and pension*. There is an iron spring much resorted to by French visitors, and many pretty excursions may be made in the neighbourhood. Hence a pass (carriage-road) leads into the *Val d'Abondance*, a tributary of the Dranse (Rte. 145). These three valleys nearly meet at their heads in the neighbourhood of the *Col de Coux*: and **Morgins** (4½ hrs.) and **Abondance**, with *hotel and abbey*, are excursions from Champéry by the prettily-named *Portes du Soleil* (3 hrs.).

It is 8½ m. by a good road from Champéry to Monthey. At *Val d'Illiciez* (3 m.) is the *H. du Repos*, and at **Trois Torrents**, 5½ m. from Champéry, a large *hotel and pension*, prettily situated. Here vines and walnut-trees begin, and the road leaving the side of the valley, twists under walnut-trees and amongst the celebrated erratic blocks of Monthey

(Rte. 57) down to the village of **Monthey** (1381 ft.) on the line from *Bouveret* to *St. Maurice*. There the rly. may be taken, or, if preferred, 2 m. of dusty road lead to

**Ollon St. Triphon Stat.** on the *Villeneuve* line (Rte. 56).

## ROUTE 145.

THE VALLEY OF THE DRANSE.

THONON TO TANINGES, SAMOËNS, CHAMPÉRY, OR MORGINS.

The smiling and picturesque valleys which lie S. of the Lake of Geneva are little visited by English tourists, who follow the regular round by *Sallanches*, *Chamonix*, and the *Tête Noire*, without seeking for variations.

Since their annexation to France, these valleys have been made more accessible by improvements in the roads, and offer charming approaches to *Mont Blanc*.

a. **Thonon** to **Taninges**, a new carriage-road, about 30 m.

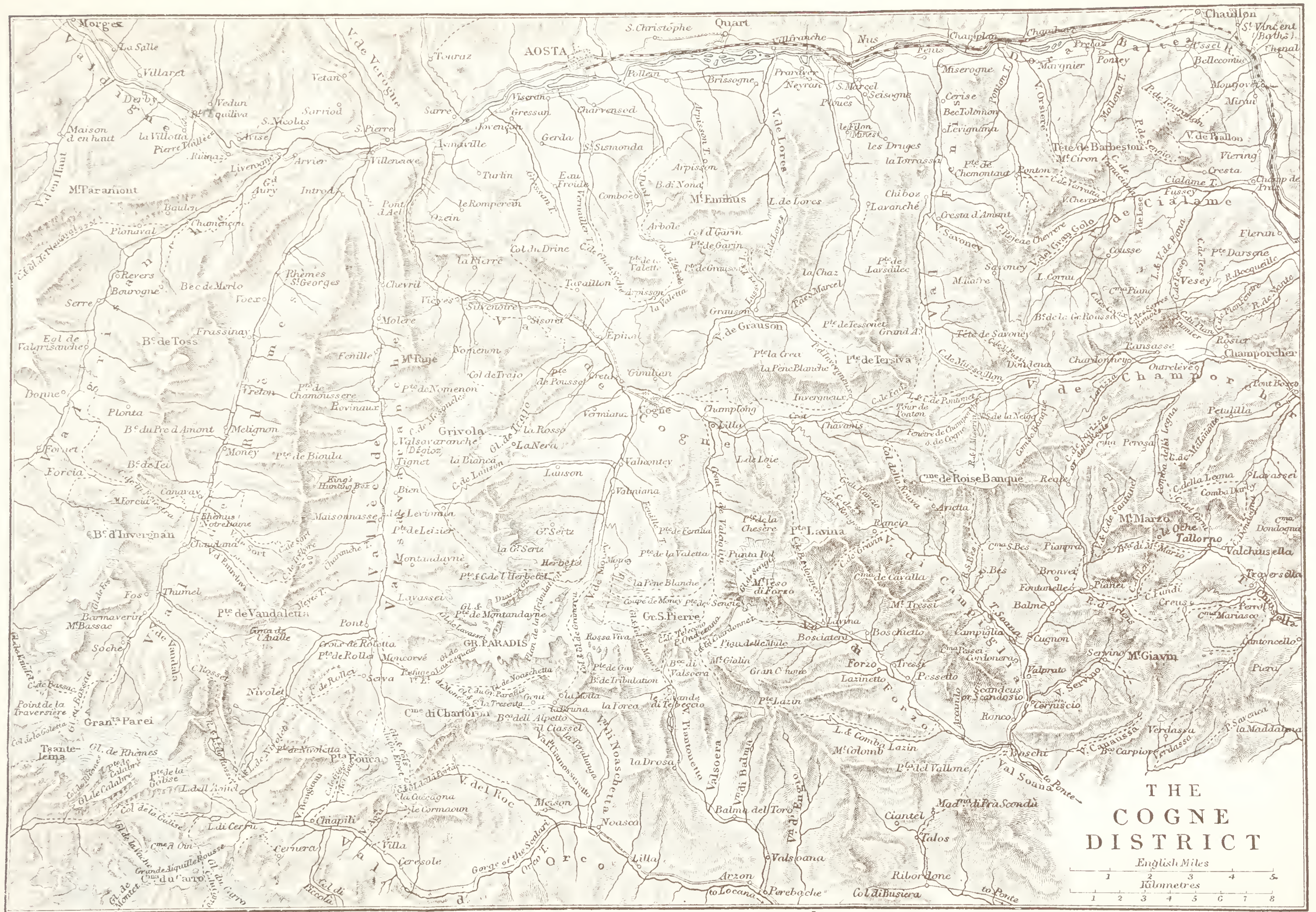
The new road penetrates a very picturesque defile, clothed in chestnut-woods, to the junction of the three Dranses. Avoiding the old ascent to the hamlet of *La Vernaz*, it mounts steadily along the l. bank of the main stream through charming scenery. The village of **Le Biot** is passed on the l., and 2 m. further, on the rt., the ruins of the ancient monastery of **Aulph** (Benedictine from 9th cent. to 1103, when it became Cistercian till dissolved 1799) founded by *St. Bernard*. Opposite *Montriond*, the road to *Taninges* leaves the valley and ascends to the col of *Les Gets* (3845 ft.), so named from a village said to have been founded by Jews exiled from Florence in the 14th cent., whence a descent of nearly 2000 ft. leads to *Taninges* (see Rte. 143).

b. **Thonon** to **Samoëns**.—From the point where the *Taninges* road

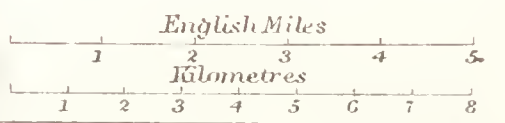








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quits the Dranse, a road leads in 2 m. to *Morzine*, a hamlet rendered famous by the strange hysterical malady which prevailed among its female inhabitants (1857-64), and more recently by a great landslide which has closed many of its slate-quarries.

Two mule-passes lead from here to *Samoëns*. The *Col de Jouplane* (5637 ft.), about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., is the most direct. Travellers can also, by following the valley to its head, reach the track of the *Col de la Golèse* (Rte. 144).

### c. Thonon to Champéry or Morgins.

Champéry may be reached from *Morzine* by the *Col de Coux*, or from *Montriond* by a very picturesque rte., ascending by the Lake of *Montriond* to the *Col de Cheserey*. This overlooks the *Vallée de Morgins*, but, by ascending to the rt., the ridge overhanging *Champéry*, known as the *Portes du Soleil*, is easily reached, and a direct descent leads to that village. *Montriond* to *Champéry*,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

The easiest route, however, between *Thonon* and *Val d'Iliez* follows the course of the *Dranse d'Abondance*. A road has been made over the *Pas de Morgins*. It is  $32\frac{1}{4}$  m. from *Thonon* to *Monthey*. The road described above is followed to near the *Pont de Bioge* below *La Vernaz*. Hence a country road mounts the rt. bank of the *Dranse d'Abondance* to *Vacheresse*, 13 m. from *Thonon*.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. further is

**Notre Dame d'Abondance**, a house of Austin Canons Regular, founded 1108, succeeded (1607-1768) by *Feuillants*. The *ch.* is in part of the same date, and has a fine 15th cent. cloister with frescoes. Above this village the valley of the *Dranse* expands into a rich pastoral basin.

The next hamlet is **La Chapelle** (*Inn*). [From this place the *Cornettes de Bise* (7999 ft.) may be reached in 5 hrs., and *Vouvry* (Rte. 57) may be gained by descending from them to the E.] Beyond it, 26 m. from *Thonon*, is *Chatel*, the last in the valley. Hence the new road crosses the

*Pas de Morgins* or *Col d'Abondance* (4629 ft.) to the Baths of the same name,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. from *La Chapelle*, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. below the pass on the Swiss side (Rte. 144).

## ROUTE 146.

### AOSTA TO PONTE IN VAL D'ORCO, BY COGNE AND THE VAL DI SOANA.

Hrs.  
walking.

	Aosta
$1\frac{1}{2}$ . .	<b>Aymaville</b> (high road)
$4\frac{1}{2}$ . .	<b>Cogne</b>
$3\frac{1}{2}$ . .	<b>Highest chalets</b>
$1\frac{1}{2}$ . .	<b>Col della Nouva</b>
3 . .	<b>Campiglia</b>
4 . .	<b>Ponte</b>

The district of which *Cogne* is the natural centre is to mountaineers one of the most interesting in the Alps, but ordinary travellers have as yet much neglected it.

The peaks and glaciers of the Eastern Graian Alps are of singular beauty, and some of the valley scenery, especially in the S. valleys, is wild and striking. Owing to its strict preservation for the sport of the King of Italy, the bouquetin, extinct elsewhere in the Alps<sup>1</sup>, still finds a home in this range, and chamois may be met with in large herds. The king's hunting-paths run in all directions through the mountains, and are of the greatest use to travellers.

The following tour may be recommended :—

1. *Becca di Nona* (on foot from *Comboe*), or by the valley mule-road to *Cogne*.
2. Ascent to the *Trajo Glacier*.
3. The *Col de Lauzon* to *Val Savaranche*.

<sup>1</sup> The last bouquetin was shot in Canton Glarus in 1550. They were scarce in the Engadine in 1612. One was shot on the St. Gotthard in the middle of the last century, when they also existed in the Mont Blanc chain. According to Mr. Hinchliff, one was shot on the Grandes Jorasses in 1856. There are said to be now about 300 at *Cogne*.

4. The *Col de la Croix de Nivolet* to Ceresole and Ponte.

5. By one of the passes leading to *Val Champorcher*, back to Val d'Aosta. The whole circuit may be performed on mules.

N.B. It is advisable to send notice beforehand to the landlady at Cogne, to prepare, if the party be large, as all provisions come from Aosta.

Above Aosta, between Aymaville and Liverogne, a distance of 6 m., the valleys of Cogne, Savaranche, Rhêmes and Grisanche, diverge like the spokes of a wheel. The general direction of the Val de Cogne is S. by E., that of Grisanche W. by S. On the N.E. the Val de Cogne is separated from the Val d'Aosta by the range of *Mt. Emilius* (11,677 ft.); on the W. from Val Savaranche by the beautiful peak of the *Grivola* (13,022 ft.) and *Grand Paradis* (13,324 ft.); on the S. from Val d'Orco, by a glacier-covered range running E. from the Grand Paradis, and including the summits of the *Rossa Viva* (11,976 ft.), *Tour du Grand St. Pierre* (12,113 ft.), *Punta Ondezana* (11,359 ft.), and *Punta Lavina* (10,854 ft.).

From Aosta (Rte. 134) a road leads directly down to the river Doire, which is crossed on a wooden bridge, and then ascends the S. bank through the villages of Gressan and Jovençon to Aymaville, which can be best reached by following the high road to Courmayeur, and descending thence nearly opposite Aymaville, by a char-road in zigzags which crosses the Buthier and reaches the village. Here a fantastical building spoils one of the finest sites in the valley. A knoll jutting out into it is surmounted by a square mass of masonry, with an ugly gallery, erected about 1713. Within it is an ancient armoury of the Barons of Aymaville.

Soon after losing sight of Aosta, the roofs of the cottages of *Pont d'Ael* or *El* are seen far below, clustered with a few trees, and near a white line which crosses the ravine. This is one of the most remarkable of the

Roman structures remaining in the Val d'Aosta, a Roman covered bridge and aqueduct, of which the latter now forms a roadway. It is 171 ft. above the torrent, which it crosses by a single arch; immediately above the arch, and under the present road, is the ancient gallery, 165 ft. long, 14 ft. high, 3 ft. wide, and lit through slits in the wall. The vault is composed of the slabs which formed the bed of the ancient watercourse, and the gallery is entered at each end by arched ports. This singular work is in perfectly sound condition, though built, as a still legible and even sharp inscription indicates, by Caius Avilius and his son Caius Aimus, of Padua, in the thirteenth year of Augustus. Their name is still preserved in the village and château of Aymaville. This inscription is placed on a tablet just over the arch on the lower side towards the valley of Aosta. A path leads down to it from the Cogne road.

From Aosta to Pont d'Ael by the route described is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.' walk. From Courmayeur there is a shorter way, winding round the slope of the hill, from Villeneuve.

The valley for a long way above Pont d'Ael is a deep ravine.

The difficulties of constructing a road by which the productions of the valley could be brought down, are obvious. The defile opens a little near some iron-works. From where the river is crossed to its l. bank beyond Chevril, the road to Cogne was made by two brothers, iron-masters, who have recorded its formation on a tablet in a rock. It has been much improved at the expense of the commune. There is very little cultivation in the valley, as the mines, until lately, gave occupation to its inhabitants; every stream drove its tilt hammer, and almost every person was employed in working, smelting, or forging the iron. The company has failed, and the stoppage of the works led to great distress among the inhabitants.

After passing the ruined iron-



works, the village of **Vièyes** (some rough auberges) is reached, at the mouth of the beautiful Combe de Nomenon.

The road crosses to the rt. bank by the Pont de Laval, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. later the traveller reaches **Epinel**, the first hamlet of Cogne.  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. more to **Cretaz**; and 20 min. (18 m. from Aosta) to

**Cogne**, 5033 ft. above the sea, the centre of the Eastern Graian Alps. Its position may be compared to that of Pontresina. The Valnontey opening answers to that of Val Roseg. But the scenery as a whole is more imposing than that of the Engadine. The village is beautifully situated at the junction of 3 valleys, amidst charming meadows, which contrast strikingly with the barren scenes through which the traveller has passed. It commands, through the gorge of the Val de Cogne, the summit of *Mont Blanc*, and S. the noble chain of the *Grand Paradis*, with the glaciers of Grand Crou and Money, and the peaks above them, particularly the Becca di Gay and the Rossa Viva. The beautiful Grivola is concealed by intervening heights.

The abandoned iron-mines may be reached in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. by a steep ascent. The iron was worked in the face of the mountain, and seems to be of almost unlimited extent. A vast surface of pure ore, yielding from 70 to 80 per cent. of metal, is exposed to open day. The height of the mines above the valley is at least 3000 ft., and as much as 120 rubble or 3000 lbs. of ore were brought down at once, upon sledges worked by men in a most extraordinary manner.

The *Church* (1642), stands on the site of an older edifice built in 1202, the belfry of which was destroyed in 1838. The tower-like house near it dates from 1672 (being built on the ruins of an older fortress), and was a stronghold of the bishops of Aosta.

### Excursions.

The *Glacier de Trajo*, commanding a

most wonderful near view of the Grivola. From *Cretaz* (1 m.) travellers will follow a mule-path S.W. up a glen to the *Chalets of Ors dessus*, cross a ridge rt. to *Pousset dessus*, and then climb steep débris for 1 hr. This will bring them to the edge of the Glacier de Trajo, about 5 hrs. from Cogne. The slender and towering Grivola is seen across the hollow filled by the glacier. The rocky head (*Pointe du Pousset*, 9994 ft.) overlooking the valley has been made accessible for tourists, but much to be preferred is the panorama from the *Punta Nera* (12,613 ft.), reached in about 2 hrs. over perfectly easy snow slopes, and commanding one of the finest views in the Alps. It is quite easy to descend to the king's hunting-box on the Col de Lauzon path, and so regain Cogne after a remarkably fine round. Another fine excursion is to cross the *Col de Trajo* (6-7 hrs.) from Cogne to Vièyes (a pleasant variation on the valley path), passing by the beautifully-situated *Upper Nomenon* chalets at the N. foot of the Grivola, which is hence seen to the greatest possible advantage. *Dégioz* in Val Savaranche can be reached from these huts by the Col de Mesoncles or Charbonière.

The village of **Gimilian**, N. of Cogne, commands an extremely fine view, and is an object for a short hr.'s walk.

### Ascents.

The *Grivola* (13,022 ft.), a pyramidal peak as remarkable for the boldness as for the beauty of its tapering form, was first ascended, after attempts by the S.W. arête by Mr. Tuckett, from the W. side by Mr. Ormsby's guide, A. Dayné, a very difficult ascent, repeated in 1876 by the Rev. F. T. Wethered. M. Chamonin made the first ascent by the rte. now generally followed up the E. face, the top being gained in 2 hrs. or less from the Trajo Glacier. The ascent is now frequently made. It is a long day from Cogne, which may be shortened by sleeping at the

Pousset chalets. The guides charge 30 fr. The summit has also been reached from the N. by laborious rtes.

The *Grand Paradis* (13,324 ft.), the highest mountain entirely in Italy, was first ascended from the Val Savaranche. It has also been climbed from Cogne by the Glacier de la Tribulation, then by couloirs and the rocks between them. The ascent from this side is not really difficult, but is rendered laborious by the distance of the mountain from any shelter.

The *Tour du Grand St. Pierre* (12,113 ft.) may be ascended from Cogne by the Valeiglia and the Col de Teleccio. It takes 2 or 3 hrs. from the col.

The *Punta Tersiva* (11,526 ft.) is easy of access for fair mountaineers, and commands one of the finest general views in the neighbourhood, surpassing that of the Becca di Nona. It is an expedition of 11 to 12 hrs. from Cogne (6 up, and 4 down). It may be varied by ascending by the path of the Fenêtre de Champorcher, and returning by Val de Grauson, one of the highest pasturage valleys in the Alps, near the entrance to which are noble views of the Grand Paradis. The Val de Grauson rte. is in every respect to be preferred to the other.

*Mont Emilius* (11,677 ft.) may also be ascended without difficulty from Cogne, by the Val de Grauson or the Col de Garin. It is a long day's walk for a trained pedestrian.

To the climber the grand crag of the *Herbetet* (12,396 ft.), accessible in 1½ hr. from the col of the same name leading over to the Val Savaranche, is the most tempting expedition in the ranges around Cogne. The *Punta Lavina* (10,854 ft.) and the *Ondezana* (11,359 ft.) can both be reached in a day, and command striking views over the plains. The *Rossa Viva* (11,976 ft.), so conspicuous from Cogne, is best reached from the E., starting from the new Piantonetto Club hut, at the foot of the descent from the Col de Money, and not far from the Col de Teleccio.

## Passes.

Many passes lead from Cogne to the neighbouring valleys.

For fair walkers there is a rte. from Aosta, longer but more interesting than the valley road, by ascending to the chalets of Combœ, on the way to the *Becca di Nona*, and thence crossing the ridge nearly due S., by the *Col d'Arbole*, which commands a magnificent view of the Grivola and Grand Paradis. It is quite possible to ascend the Becca di Nona, and cross to Cogne, in one long day from Aosta (see Rte. 134). W. of this col are two lower passes, *Col du Drinc* and *Col de Chazsèche*, both practicable for mules, from Cogne to the hermitage of St. Grat and Aosta in 7 or 8 hrs. Both command noble views.

The *Pas de Lores* is a steep, rough, and little used pass, leading by the E. side of Mont Emilius and the Val de Lores to **Brissogne**, a village 3 m. below Aosta.

The *Col Coronas*, or *Pas de St. Marcel*, is a fair mule-path leading from the Val de Grauson by the Val de St. Marcel to Val d'Aosta. It commands a fine view of the Monte Rosa chain and Grand Combin.

*Val Savaranche* is best reached by the *Col du Lauzon* (10,798 ft.), a fine and easy mule-pass (one of the royal hunting-paths).

From the village of *Valnontey* the well-constructed path mounts rt. in easy zigzags to a plateau where the king has a shooting-box with 7 rooms. A less steep ascent leads to the pass (5 hrs.) where a loop-holed wall has been constructed for the royal sportsman. A descent of 2 hrs., with superb views of the Grivola and Grand Paradis, leads to the *Leviona chalets*, whence there are 3 paths to Val Savaranche (2 hrs., less on foot).

From the head of the Valnontey the fine glacier pass of the *Col de l'Herbetet* (10,686 ft.) leads to the *Leviona chalets*.

The *Val d'Orco* is attained by several glacier-passes. The most



attractive is the *Col de Grand Crou* (10,837 ft.), leading from the head of the Valnontey to the lower end of the Scalari di Ceresole. All the difficulty is on the N. side, but the descent is intricate, and without a local guide time will be lost. The Stabilimento of Ceresole may be reached by this rte. in about 11 hrs.

The view from the col can be greatly extended by ascending, in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 hrs., the *Tête de la Tribulation* (11,949 ft.).

There are several lofty cols from the Tribulation Glacier to the Val d'Orco, but the descent in each case to the Noaschetta Glacier is very steep, and in some cases difficult, so that they are best taken from the S.

The *Col de Money* (11,247 ft.) is also a long glacier-pass, and leads from the Valnontey to Val Piantonetto and Locana.

The *Col de Teleccio* (10,913 ft.) is approached on the N. side by the Combe de Valeiglia. The pass is free from difficulty, though a considerable extent of glacier is crossed. A local guide is desirable. From Cogne to Locana, by this rte., is a day's walk of 10 or 11 hrs.

From Cogne to *Val di Soana* the *Col de Sengie* affords, perhaps, the finest glacier rte. It is a narrow gap at the S. foot of the Pointe de Sengie, and is approached on both sides by steep but easy rock gullies. That on the W. is gained by the E. branch of the Valeiglia Glacier. The pass leads into *Val di Forzo*, the N.W. branch of Val di Soana, a very wild glen with several poor hamlets, but no Inns.

The *Col de Forzo*, or *Forches*, is another high glacier-pass approached on the W. by the small glacier lying in the S.E. corner of the Valeiglia.

For the other passes, see below.

The road up the valley ascends beside the torrent, and soon enters another basin, at the head of which, opposite the hamlet of *Lilla*, it ascends the mountain side, leaving on the rt. the Combe de Valeiglia, which runs up to an amphitheatre

of glaciers. The steep path passes over what appears to be a vast dyke in the valley; the torrent flows round it to escape through a ravine at one extremity. After crossing the ridge crowned by the chapel of Crêt, the traveller finds himself on more wild and open ground, leading to the pasturages of Chavanis. Some of the lower chalets are soon reached, and further up on this fine alp, which feeds large flocks and herds during the summer, the cluster known as the *chalets of Chavanis* (fine flora). From this point the chain may be crossed in many places to the Val di Soana.

a. The *Col de Bardoney* (9295 ft.), a wild, steep, but easy pass, leading partly over snow and under the W. side of the Punta Lavina to Val di Forzo, the savage N.W. branch of Val di Soana. There is no Inn short of Ronco ( $8\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.). There are several wild passes over the ridge between the Col de Bardoney and the next named pass, up to one of which, the *Bocchetta Scaletta*, there is a royal hunting-path.

b. The *Col della Nouva*, also known as the *Col de l'Arietta*. It is 9623 ft. above the sea, and 4 hrs. from Cogne; for the last 20 min. by a royal path by the side of the glacier. The col is elevated and very narrow, the view from it towards the S. magnificent; in clear weather Turin is visible, seen over and far beyond the deep Val Campiglia, which lies at the foot of the traveller, and seemingly descending perpendicularly. Towards the N. Monte Rosa and Mont Blanc can both be seen by climbing a rugged rock on the rt. The descent is excessively steep but quite safe, bearing l. to the valley of Campiglia, where the path leads gently down through scenes of continually increasing beauty. On looking back, the pass appears guarded by inaccessible precipices.

3 hrs. from the col is **Campiglia** (small Inn), a wretched hamlet, whose male inhabitants for the most part migrate in winter into the

plains of Italy to exercise their trades of coppersmith and lampmaker.

$\frac{1}{2}$  hr. **Corzonera**. Here Rte. c falls in.

$\frac{1}{2}$  hr. **Ronco** (see below).

c. A longer but more varied and beautiful road, barely practicable for mules, is found by leaving the path of the Col della Nouva on the rt. at Chavanis, and turning l. up a steep and difficult ascent to a col, called the *Fenêtre de Champorcher* (9311 ft.), the pass by which the Cogne valley communicates by Val de Champorcher with the lower Val d'Aosta. From this point the view of the Alps which bound the Val de Cogne on the W. is magnificent, from the grandeur of their forms and the extent of ice.

The descent to the head of the *Val de Champorcher* is steep. The little chapel of Notre Dame de la Neige, on the brink of one of several little lakes, is passed, in a savage situation.

The path now skirts, as it leaves it on the rt., a dark and enormous mountain mass, and descends rapidly, but nothing habitable appears. The valley deepens considerably on the l.: the eye can trace its course down towards Bard, and across it a path which leads from the village of *Champorcher* by the chalets of *Dondena* into the valley of Fénis.

After skirting a buttress of the mountain the path reaches the bank of a torrent just where it issues from a glacier; then, crossing another ridge over a beautiful pasturage, it descends to the borders of a little lake at the foot of the Col della Reale.

[From this spot to *Fort Bard* down the valley of *Champorcher* is about 4 hrs. About 10 hrs. altogether from Cogne. The mule-road is bad, although it has been repaired for the convenience of the late King of Italy, who built his first shooting-box at the head of it. There is a small *Inn* at *Champorcher* (see Rte. 134).]

Turning abruptly to the rt. the path leads in less than an hour to the summit of the ridge separating

the Val de Champorcher from the E. branch of the Val di Soana, called *Col della Reale*, or *Larizza* (8547 ft.), and commanding a very fine Alpine panorama. The descent on the other side is rapid. Passing to the l. under a beetling mountain, the path skirts a deep ravine, leaves on the rt. some old adits of a mine worked unprofitably for silver, and in 2 hrs. passes some chalets. The level of the pine-forest is soon reached, and deep in a little plain is seen the church and village of *Pianprato*, the highest in the Val di Soana.

At the opposite extremity of this little plain, the path descends by a stunted pine-forest, and through the depths of the valley. There is nothing peculiar in this part of the valley, until, just before reaching the hamlet of *Balme della Rocca*, there are the remains of a slip from the mountain, which took place in 1833, and strewed the little plain with rocks and stones. At the hamlet of *Corzonera* (the chief hamlet of Val Prato),  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Pianprato, the track falls into that from the Col della Nouva.

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**Ronco**, chief place in the Val di Soana; below it, a bridge, in a wild and striking situation, leads across a ravine to the village of **Ingria**.

The inhabitants of this valley wear a singular sort of shoe or boot; it is made of coarse woollen, tied tight round the ankle, but half as broad again as the foot; its use gives an awkwardness to their gait.

Below Ingria the valley becomes a ravine of singularly wild and grand character. Vast precipices, gorges, and forests, offer alternately, sometimes together, their magnificent materials for Alpine scenery. The road descends to the level of the river, here so hemmed in by rocks that it has been necessary to cut a passage through them. Enormous overhanging masses hide Ponte from view, but beyond it the plains of Piedmont appear.



A descent through a forest, and near some quarries, leads to the Villa Nuova of Ponte, built round the cotton-works established by the Baron du Port, and about half a mile farther is

( $2\frac{3}{4}$  hrs.) **Ponte Canavese** (1444 ft.), a singular old town (5516 Inhab.), its streets lined with arcades, under which the market is held.

The picturesque situation of this place at the confluence of the Soana and the Orco can hardly be exceeded, rich in vineyards, enclosed by mountains, offering, in combination with the surrounding scenery, the towers and ruins of two feudal *castles* in the most striking positions, and the head of the valley closed by the snowy peaks of the lofty range which divides the Val d'Orco from the Maurienne. The parish *church* is on an eminence above the town, which commands a fine view of the junction of the valleys, and of the Val d'Orco as far as Cuorgnè. It was restored in the 11th cent. The original church is said to have been one of the earliest Christian places of worship in this part of Italy.

The establishment of the **Fabbrica**, the first cotton-works known in Piedmont, has given employment to hundreds of men, women, and children. The raw material is imported from Genoa.

Ponte is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant from **Cuorgnè**, a town of 4628 Inhab. on the W. side of the Orco. A good walker may go from Cogne to Cuorgnè in a day across the Col della Nouva. Hence there is a branch *Rly.* ( $31$  m.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.) to Turin.

## ROUTE 147.

PONTE TO VILLENEUVE, BY THE VAL D'ORCO AND VAL SAVARANCHE.

Hrs.

$2\frac{1}{2}$  . . . **Ponte Locana**

[Switz. II.]

Hrs.

$2\frac{1}{2}$  . . . **Noasca**  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  . . . **Inn of Ceresole**  
 $2$  . . . **Chiapili**  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$  . . . **Col de la Croix de Nivolet**  
 $2$  . . . **Pont**  
 $2$  . . . **Dégioz**  
 $3\frac{1}{2}$  . . . **Villeneuve**

Consult vol. ii, part i of Martelli and Vaccarone's *Guida delle Alpi Occidentali* (1889).

Char-road ( $20\frac{1}{2}$  m.) to Noasca. Mail-carriage from Cuorgnè (Rte. 146) to Noasca (4 hrs.), where baggage and riding mules may be secured by writing beforehand.

Above **Ponte** the road runs the whole way on the l. bank of the river. The scenery is very fine; the forms of the mountains vast, rugged, and grand, clothed with magnificent chestnut-trees, and frequently exhibiting the effects of disintegration in the enormous blocks which have fallen from the heights, in many places in such quantities that the road is carried over or around them in a most sinuous course, giving a variety of views.

About 3 m. from Ponte is the village of **Sparone**. Many little hamlets lie on the road, and many usines are worked for small iron wares with tilts, and no stream is allowed to remain idle, where, at a small cost, and with simple machinery, it can be made to tilt a hammer, or move a saw.

**Locana** is a town of 6486 Inhab., the streets narrow and dirty. [Hence easy passes lead to Ceres and Lanzo (Rte. 156A).] Above Locana the road winds amidst enormous masses of fallen granite and serpentine, some of which have blocked up the course of the torrent, and compelled it to find another channel—these, and the savage mountains, give great wildness to the valley. Yet the tortuous road rising over these *éboulements* often leads to charming little plains between them. The traveller passes on the rt. the wild Val Piantonetto, leading by the Col

*de Teleccio* (Rte. 146) to Cogne, and several hamlets, each more and more miserable, until the climax of wretchedness is found at **Noasca**, 3 hrs. from Locana, which has pointed a proverb—

Noasca, Noasca,  
Poco pane, lunga tasca ;

a reputation, however, now undeserved, as the *Albergo Reale* is a dépendance of the magnificent new hotel at Ceresole.

Here the grand cataract of the *Noaschetta*, descending from the Col de Grand Crou (Rte. 146), bursts out from a rift in a mountain mass of granite, where all is denuded to absolute sterility. Below it a thousand enormous boulders have been brought down and thrown together by the fall. The passage across the torrent, among these rocks, is a curious specimen of Alpine bridge building : poles and planks are placed from rock to rock, and almost under the spray of the cataract. Beyond it the mule-path still ascends on the l. bank of the Orco.

About 1 m. above Noasca is a gorge called the *Scalari di Ceresole*, where lofty precipices overhang the Orco, which tumbles in a succession of falls. The path for half a mile is cut out of the rocks, and a flight of steps (*Scalari*), practicable for mules, is carried up ; sometimes on the brink of the precipice ; at others, so deep in its side that a canopy overhangs it. Crosses fixed against the rock mark the spots of accidents.

This wild road terminates in a winding staircase, where it is difficult for a mule to turn, and at the top passes under the *Pietra Rossa*, a red rock, which, according to the legend, blocked up the valley until a passage was opened by a blow of the hammer from one of the early Christian saints (*Santi Minatori*), who, according to local traditions, were sent by the Roman emperor to work in the quarries in this remote region. On emerging the traveller

finds himself on a plain with fields of barley and an abundance of rich meadow-land. Immediately before him rise the snowy peaks of the *Levanna* (here called *Becca a Tre Corni*) and the range dividing the Val Grande from the Val d'Orco.

A little way within the plain of Ceresole the valley turns to the rt., and the Orco washes the base of a mountain, where the Comte d'Aglié has some silver-mines. The ore is smelted in the valley. Near the works there is a spring of water slightly ferruginous, but so highly carbonated that the gas escapes from it in a sparkling state ; when drunk at the spring it is delicious. About 10 min. from the spring are the Inns at

### Ceresole Reale (4905 ft.).

This affords the best headquarters on this flank of the Grand Paradis. The *Cascade* of Ceresole, near the inns, deserves a visit.

**Excursion** for a view of the *Levanna*, Grand Paradis, &c., to the *Punta di Bellagarda* (9643 ft., 4 hrs.). Fine views are also obtained by walking up the slopes to the N. on the way to the Vallone del Roc, or, better still, by crossing (by a good mule-path) the *Colle della Porta* (9925 ft.) to the upper part of the Orco valley, and returning by the valley path.

[N. are many glacier passes to Val Savaranche, of which the most easterly, the *Col de Moncorvé*, lies between the Tresenta and Cima di Charforon. The most direct is the *Col du Grand Etret*, by which it is 8 hrs. to Pont in Val Savaranche. By one or the other it is an easy day from Ceresole to the comfortable Club hut at the foot of the Grand Paradis. S. is a pass to the valley of the Stura, or Val Grande, by the *Col della Crocetta* (8649 ft.). The path (hardly passable for mules) turns l. from the col, descending to Groscavallo in the Val Grande, from which a carriage-road leads by Ceres to Lanzo (Rte. 150 A). The *Col della Piccola* leads to the head of the Val



Grande. The ascent of the *Levanna* is a difficult expedition for mountaineers. The *Grand Paradis* (13,324 ft.) has also been reached from Ceresole, but is best taken from the new Club hut (see below).]

The valley widens near (20 min.) the few and scattered houses of *Ceresole*, the highest of its villages, about 1 hr. above the *Scalari*.

[Above the hamlet of **Chiapili** (where the only night-quarters are a hay-loft) 3 rtes. diverge—the *Nivolet*, N.E., to the *Val d'Aosta*, the *Col du Carro*, S.W., to the valley of the *Arc* and *Mt. Cenis* road, the *Col de la Galise*, N.W.

That to the *Galise* ascends a steep glen, and then crosses pastures to the lake and **Cerrù** chalets: here milk and cheese may be had. Beyond *Cerrù* the scenery is singularly sterile and savage. A narrow path leads along the slope until it stops abruptly at a gully called the *Petit Colouret*. A zigzag path ascends this; above the *plain of Ballotta* is attained. This is the bed of an ancient lake, now filled with snow, which must be crossed to the *Grand Colouret*. This is a steep channel, or *couloir*, filled with snow or scree, and enclosed between precipitous rocks. Having climbed up close to the rocks, on the rt., it is at last necessary to cross the snow itself that lies in the hollow. On the other side the footing is firm, and the traveller soon reaches the summit of the *Col de la Galise*, 9836 ft. above the sea, where one of the most glorious views in the Alps rewards him. The col has been used for at least 250 years. From it the ascent of the *Pointe de la Galise* (10,965 ft.) to the N., can be easily made in 1½ hr., and the view from it is very much finer than from the pass itself. The descent to the *Val de Tignes* is perfectly easy. It lies over a smooth glacier to the upper pastures. In about 1 hr. the path enters a gorge, and becomes exceedingly narrow. Emerging from this, the first chalets appear, and an easy descent over

meadows leads to *Fornet*, at the foot of the *Col d'Iseran*, thence in ½ hr. to *Val d'Isère* (Rte. 156). About 8½ hrs. from *Ceresole*.

The *Petit Colouret* can be safely and quickly descended, though, from the looseness of the soil, the ascent by it is tiresome.

The traveller to the *Val d'Aosta*, who has given a day to the *Col de la Galise*, may sleep at the chalets of *Cerrù*, and thence reach the *Croix de Nivolet*, without descending to *Chiapili*, in 2 hrs.

The *Col du Carro* leads from *Chiapili* to the village of *Bonneval*, at the head of the valley of the *Arc*. Ascending S.W. by the chalets of *Cernera*, the track crosses the *Orco* near its source. The ascent continues across a glacier which lies on the N. side of the col. In 1 hr. after reaching the glacier, the summit of the col (10,506 ft.) is attained by a rather steep snow or ice slope. In the descent, which is rough, the source of the *Arc* is passed, and below it the hamlet of *Ecot*. Before reaching **Bonneval** (5½ hrs. from *Chiapili*, which is 2 hrs. from *Ceresole*), the traveller passes an extraordinary scene of desolation, called *Clapier de Fodan*. It is said that the ancient site of *Bonneval* is here buried by the fall of a vast mass of mountain. 1½ hrs. further down the valley is the large village of **Bessans** (Rte. 156).]

### Col de Nivolet.

There is a good royal mule-path over this pass.

Before reaching the point where the abrupt ascent to the alp of *Cerrù* commences, a torrent is seen descending from the rt. Up the l. bank of this torrent the zigzag path of the *Nivolet* ascends, and at the end of 1½ hr. leads to some chalets. The views of the high range of the *Levanna* are of the most sublime character. Above these chalets the old path was a series of flights of steps rudely cut in the rock. Beyond this a scene of utter sterility is presented: numerous Alpine lakes or

tarns are seen, but no prospect of escape, no way from this cul-de-sac seems to offer itself; yet in the most improbable of all directions there is one, which actually lies up and over the rugged and pinnacled crest of the boundary to the l., to the col (1 hr.). From the *Col de la Croix de Nivolet* (8665 ft.), the view is stern and imposing. The Levanna is a fine object beyond the head of Val d'Orco.

On looking on the other side of the col into the Plan de Nivolet, which is the head of the Val Savaranche, many lakes are also seen at the foot of the glaciers of the Nivolet, and directly across the Plan de Nivolet the mule-path over the *Col Rosset* (9922 ft.), leading to the head of the Val de Rhêmes, and so, by a somewhat longer rte., to Villeneuve.

The descent to the Plan de Nivolet is short; and having attained the banks of the lakes, a nearly level path leads through the fine pasturages at the head of the Plan de Nivolet. Here Victor Emmanuel built a hunting-lodge, which, in the last years of his life, was one of his headquarters in the mountains.

In about 1 hr. from the lakes the **Nivolet** chalets are reached, and here poor accommodation at high prices may be had. Below these chalets the ground of the plain becomes boggy, and broken up into thousands of knolls, rounded by glacial action and covered with erratic blocks. At the end of another hr. these are left, to descend by a path lying over bare and smooth granite, like that on the rte. of the Grimsel, above Handeck. After a considerable descent the traveller suddenly finds himself on the brink of a vast precipice, and overlooking the village of Pont, in the deep valley a thousand ft. below him. Here, on the edge of the precipice, a cross is placed, which is seen from below, and called the *Croix de Roletta* (7605 ft.). From it, one of those sublime scenes which occasionally reward the traveller in the Alps bursts upon him. The imposing range of

the Grand Paradis, breaking through enormous glaciers, rises before him. The peaks S. of it are the *Tresenta*, *Cima di Charforon*, and *Becca di Monciair*; to the N. rise the *Herbetet* and *Grivola*. The path winds among precipices for more than 1 hr. to reach **Pont**, the highest village in the Val Savaranche, at a point where its two branches unite. On the descent a fine waterfall is passed.

The valley below Pont is narrow, clothed with pine-forest, and with very little cultivation at the bottom.

Before reaching Val Savaranche there is a picturesque spot, where two villages are perched opposite each other; here the mountains are seen which bound the valley of Aosta on the N. High on the hillside to the l. is one of the hunting-boxes of the King of Italy.

**Val Savaranche** or **Dégioz** (5056 ft.), is the principal village in the valley.

[Those who vary the rte. by crossing the ridge between this and the Val de Rhêmes may also find lodging at the *cure's* at the village of *Notre Dame de Rhêmes* (Rte. 147 A).

On the l. a path leads by the *Col de Trélore* to the Val de Rhêmes; and on the rt. a royal path crosses to Cogne, by the *Col de Lauzon*, in 7 hrs. (Rte. 146).

A royal hunting-path leads up to the *Col de Mesoncles* or *Charbonnière*, whence the descent is easy to the beautifully situated huts of Nomenon at the N. foot of the Grivola. Thence Cogne can be reached by the *Col de Trajo*.

The ascent of the *Grivola* from this side is very arduous, and only suited for practised mountaineers with good guides.

The *Grand Paradis*, on the contrary, is much more easy of approach than from Cogne, and is an ascent most strongly to be recommended to good walkers, even though without much mountaineering experience. The view is glorious and most extensive. The summit may be reached from Pont by a succession of snow-slopes



in 6 hrs. 2 hrs. from Pont by a mule-path (4 hrs. from Val Savaranche) is the most substantial 'Refuge Victor Emmanuel II.,' erected by the Italian A. C. (five rooms). The key can be obtained at Ceresole, Dégioz, Maisonnasse, or Courmayeur. Many other ascents can be made from this hut (9350 ft.), particularly those of the graceful *Tresenta* and the beautiful *Becca di Monciair*; and there are many passes to Ceresole, particularly the easy *Col du Grand Paradis*, the *Col de Moncorvé*, and the *Col du Grand Etret*. In fact, this hut is one of the finest mountaineering centres in the district.]

In the lower part of the valley the path continues at a great height above the river on its rt. bank; and, as it approaches the Val d'Aosta, commands a magnificent view of Mont Blanc, towering over the intermediate mountains. Here the Val de Rhêmes joins the Val Savaranche, and both enter the valley of Aosta. Seen from above, the end of the Val de Rhêmes appears like a table-land on the mountain side, studded with villages, rich in meadows and vines, walnut and chestnut trees.

A rapid and fatiguing paved descent leads to **Villeneuve**. A char can generally be found here for Aosta or Courmayeur (Rte. 134).

## ROUTE 147 A.

### AOSTA TO TIGNES, BY THE VAL DE RHÊMES AND THE COL DE LA GOLETTA.

The *Val de Rhêmes*, uninteresting in its middle region, presents a magnificent crescent of glaciers at its head. From these rise the *Granta Parei* (best ascended by the S. ridge), the *Tsanteleina*, and *Pte. de Bazel*. On the W. side of the *Granta Parei* (paroi, a wall) lies the splendid pass of the *Col de la Goletta* to Tignes.

The path leading to Val de Rhêmes

starts from Villeneuve. It mounts through a superb forest of walnuts. to *Introd* (1 hr.). Here there is a fine bridge over the torrent. The path now mounts by the l. bank to *St. George de Rhêmes* (2 hrs.), a poor hamlet. Above this the valley is narrow and sterile. It at last opens, and the village of

**Notre Dame de Rhêmes** is seen on a level meadow, backed by the snowy peaks at the head of the valley (4½ hrs. from Villeneuve).

[*Col Rosset* to Nivolet plain, see Rte. 147; *Finestra* and *Col de Bassac* to Val Grisanche, see Rte. 148.]

The scenery henceforth is very fine. The valley terminates in an icy cirque, dominated by the peak of the *Granta Parei*. It is a walk of 2 hrs. from Notre Dame to the Soches huts, above which to the W. is a rock and grass wall leading in 1 hr. to the Gl. de Rhêmes, the westernmost of those flowing into the valley. The way to the pass lies up this glacier, which offers no difficulties.

From the *Col de la Goletta* (10,050 ft.) the view is superb, and is considered by excellent judges to rival some of the famous scenes in the Swiss Alps. The principal peaks of the Cogne and Tarentaise Alps are ranged round the traveller. [From the pass the *Col de la Tsanteleina* leads to the great glaciers which fill the head of the Val de Rhêmes, while the *Col de Bassac Déré* (9796 ft.) leads into the Val Grisanche, over the Vaudet glacier. From the *Col de la Goletta*, the *Granta Parei* (11,395 ft.) can be ascended in 1-1½ hr.; the *Tsanteleina* (11,831 ft.) in 2-3 hrs., according to the state of the snow on the N. face.; the *Bec de la Traversière* (or *Petit Mont Bassac*) (10,896 ft.) in ½ hr., and the *Pointe de la Goletta* (10,758 ft.), also in ½ hr.] The descent towards Tignes lies at first among crevasses. By keeping to the N. side of the glacier its more broken portion is avoided, and then a way is found down broken slopes and pasturages to the Lac de la Sassiére.

Below the lake a path crosses to

the l. bank of the torrent, and descends rapidly to

**Tignes** (Rte. 156), which is reached in 8 to 9 hrs. from Notre Dame.

[There is also an easier, but not so fine a pass, *Col de Rhêmes* (10,046 ft.), from the *Soches* chalets over the glaciers E. of the *Granta Parei* to the track from the *Col de la Galise*, 2 hrs. above Tignes; and there are several other glacier passes further E. between this one and the *Col de la Galise*.]

## ROUTE 148.

AOSTA TO BOURG ST. MAURICE,  
IN THE TARENTAISE, BY THE  
VAL GRISANCHE AND THE COL  
DU MONT.

The **Val Grisanche** runs along the E. side of the main chain of the Graian Alps. The chief summits on this line are the *Rutor* (11,438 ft.), *Ormelune* (10,771 ft.), and *Aig. de la Sassiére* (12,323 ft.). Between Val Grisanche and Val de Rhêmes is the *Bec d'Invergnan* (11,838 ft.), and *Mont Bassac* (11,467 ft.), while the *Granta Parei* (11,395 ft.), the *Tsanteleina* (11,831 ft.), and *Pte. de Bazel* (11,296 ft.), close the head of the Val de Rhêmes.

The *Rutor* is a broad glacier-covered mountain, with several summits, the southern (near which there is now a Club hut) being the highest. All may be ascended in a walk from Val Grisanche to the Little St. Bernard (see Rte. 149).

**Aosta** (Rte. 134).

**Liverogne**,  $9\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Aosta. Hence to Bourg St. Maurice is about 13 hrs.

The entrance to the *Val Grisanche* by the torrent which flows into the Val d'Aosta is utterly impracticable. It is necessary to cross the stream by the new bridge, and immediately

behind the little dirty town of Liverogne to pass a mill, and ascend through orchards and meadows which appear to lead away from the valley. At the head of these the path arrives abruptly below some rocks; thence turning and ascending along their base the traveller shortly finds himself in the path, which is carried high above the l. bank of the stream.

The scenery here is of a striking character. The river runs so deep in the gorge as scarcely to be heard; and the rocks which bound its course are so nearly perpendicular, that the tops of lofty and enormous pines, rooted in the rifts below, can almost be touched by the hand of the traveller in passing above them. Overhanging the path, the mountains so close in that the light of day does not half illuminate this deep and savage defile. On a sort of terrace, on the opposite bank, are seen the ruins of the feudal *castle of Montmajeur*, frowning over the black ravine. From it, the view into the valley of Aosta must be beautiful, but what access there is to these ruins cannot be traced, or even imagined.

This narrow defile continues during an ascent of more than 2 hrs. Sometimes the path is carried on terraces, rudely formed of loose stones placed across rifts in the precipices; in others, the buttresses of rock are cut away to make room for the road.

The valley opens a little at the marshy plain of **Planaval**, where a village of the same name lies to the rt., in a lateral valley, through which the *Rutor* can be ascended. The first village is **Revers**. A little further is **Serré** and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. beyond it **L'Eglise de Val Grisanche**, the principal place. It is situated at the foot of the *Becca de l'Aouille* (aiguille), about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Liverogne, and the journey to it from the Val d'Aosta comprises the most interesting scenery in the valley.

The sterility above l'Eglise is



striking. The valley is strewn with enormous blocks which have been detached from the mountains, from whence still impending masses threaten the passing traveller, and numerous crosses record the frequent fatal accidents. Deep rifts in the sides of the precipices are channels to cataracts which pour their white foam from the dark recesses; in some places the black precipitous slopes of the mountain are always wet and herbless, and reeking as if from some recent avalanche.

For  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to **Fornet** the same character of scenery prevails; some miserable hovels and a few fields of stunted barley are found in the bottom of the valley; on its sides there is only the dark precipice or black forest.

[From Fornet the *Rutor* can be ascended, or the *Ormelune*, or the *Invergnan* (best by its N. ridge). From the *Vaudet* chalets,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ –4 hrs. from Fornet, many expeditions may be made. The pass of the *Col de Bassac Supérieur* or *Déré* (9796 ft.) leads over the *Glacier de Vaudet* at the head of the *Val Grisanche*. Bearing to the S.E. this falls in at the summit with the *Col de la Goletta* (10,050 ft.) from the *Val de Rhêmes* (Rte. 147A). Turning rt. and crossing this col the rte. descends due W. by the *Gl. de la Goletta*, the *Lac de la Sassièrè*, and under the black precipices of the *Sassièrè*, to *Tignes*. About 4 hrs. up from the *Vaudet* chalets; 3 hrs. down. A more direct but rather difficult passage, called the *Col de la Sassièrè*, lies over the ridge between the *Sassièrè* and the *Bec de la Traversièrè*. From the *Vaudet* chalets a track crosses to the *Tignes* valley by the *Col Vaudet* or *Col du Clou*. The *A. de la Sassièrè* (12,323 ft.) is easily accessible for mountaineers from the chalets in 5 hrs. by the S.E. ridge. The easy glacier pass of the *Col de Bassac Inférieur* (10,346 ft.), N. of Mt. Bassac, leads in  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from N. Dame by the *Vaudet* chalets to *Val Grisanche*.]

At **Fornet**, the highest village

(5679 ft.), the rte. to the *Col du Mont* ascends a steep path on the W. side by a torrent, and reaches some chalets on the small but fine pasturage of the *Grand' Alpe*. Beyond them, it leaves to the rt. a second pass to *Ste. Foy* by the *Col de la Sachère* (9423 ft.), farther N. than the *Col du Mont*. [This follows the stream upwards on its rt. bank, passing by a small lake and a chapel dedicated to *St. Grat* (whence a steep ascent leads by the *Col de St. Grat* to the great *Rutor* glacier, and so to *La Thuille*). From the *Col* an easy ascent of an hr. leads to the *Bec du Mont* or *de l'Ane* (10,558 ft.), between the *Col* and the *Col du Mont*, whence the view is very fine. The track descends to the striking pasture basin of *La Sassièrè de Ste. Foy*, and rejoins below the track from the *Col du Mont*. The distance is about the same, but the track is rougher and less frequented.] Above the chalets the path enters a basin filled with rocks and stones brought down from the surrounding mountains, the summits of which are crested with glaciers. The ascent is steep and trackless for nearly 2 hrs., up fatiguing rocks and snow. From the col (3 hrs. from Fornet), which lies immediately N. of the *Ormelune* (10,771 ft.), the view is very fine, not only of the deep valley of stones towards *Piedmont*, but of Mt. *Pourri*, and the more distant heights of *Savoy*, where nature presents a gentler aspect in the mountains which bound the *Val d'Isère*.

The *Col du Mont* (8636 ft.) was the scene of some desperate conflicts between the French and *Piedmontese*, in 1793 and the following years. On the 12th May, 1794, General *Moulins*, who commanded the former, after many efforts succeeded in gaining the position by advancing during a snowstorm, when such assailants were not expected, and retained it in spite of not less than ten efforts to repossess it, but abandoned it in November, 1794. There are some remains of fortifica-

tions, and in 1868 the bones of 4 soldiers were found among the neighbouring rocks.

After passing down a steep path, leaving on the l. black precipices—the haunts of the chamois—the beautiful pasturages belonging to the commune of Ste. Foy appear in a deep basin, bounded below by a forest. In less than 1 hr. the highest chalets in this basin are reached, and some way beyond the track from the Col de la Sachère (see above) falls in on the rt. [From this point a path turning nearly due N. leads in 3 hrs. to the *Col du Tachuy* and *Col de la Loys Blanche*, passes leading to La Thuille, on the road of the Little St. Bernard (Rte. 149).] The road winds steeply down through a forest, and at length emerges to enter the hamlet of *Mazures*; thence traversing a brow on the mountain side, the road descends to ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from col).

**Ste. Foy** in the Val de Tignes (Rte. 156). The approach to it is strikingly fine, for the *Mont Pourri*, one of the most beautiful mountains in the Alps, rises on the opposite side of the valley. From its base in the torrent, far below the terrace on which Ste. Foy stands, to its summit, a triangular pyramid of snow, the whole mountain is seen. In the valley descending from the Col du Mont, chamois are not scarce, ptarmigan (albinos) are numerous; and the coq de bruyère is occasionally seen. There are excellent trout in the Isère, and in the Lac de Tignes.

[From Ste. Foy there is a path by **Mazures** and **Moulins** to the Little St. Bernard without going round by Séez, in a little over 3 hrs.]

From Ste. Foy the descent by a carriage-road is by zigzags to the banks of the Isère. Before reaching the river a torrent is crossed, which forms, in a lateral gorge, a fine cataract. This is the stream which from above descends between the villages of Mazures and Miroir.

From the bridge the road lies across meadows for some way, and

on the banks of the Isère. Soon, after rising, it leads to the village of **Séez**, at the foot of the Little St. Bernard,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. from Bourg St. Maurice. [From Séez to **Chapieux** (Rte. 139), under the Col du Bonhomme, is a walk of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. up the narrow Val de Bellaval, part of the way, by an excellent carriage-road to the mineral springs and Etablissement at *Bonneval*.]

Beyond Séez is a bridge thrown over the Recluse. Here there is abundant evidence of the destructive character of this torrent after storms, in the sand, rocks, and stones which mark its course. Soon after, the road passes some coarse woollen clothworks, and forges for making small ironware. Then across the winter bed of the furious Versoyen, which descends from the N.E. by the Val de Bonneval, and below an old round tower belonging to the village of Châtelard. The road is wide and excellent, and in a 2 hrs.' walk from Ste. Foy leads to

### Bourg St. Maurice.

## ROUTE 149.

### COURMAYEUR TO BOURG ST. MAURICE, BY THE LITTLE ST. BERNARD.

Hrs.

	Courmayeur
1 . .	Pré St. Didier
$1\frac{3}{4}$ . .	La Thuille
2 . .	Cantine
$1\frac{1}{4}$ . .	Hospice
$0\frac{1}{2}$ . .	Cantine
$1\frac{1}{4}$ . .	St. Germain
1 . .	Séez
$0\frac{3}{4}$ . .	Bourg St. Maurice

$9\frac{1}{2}$

The above are the walking times by the old path. A char takes about 7 hrs. by the new road. For pedestrians the old mule-track is shorter and more pleasant than the new road.



This is one of the easiest passes over the Alps, and one of the most ancient. It contests with the Petit Mont Cenis, the Mont Genève, the Col de l'Argentière, and some minor passes, the honour of having been the scene of Hannibal's famous passage into Italy.

The road to the Little St. Bernard begins to ascend immediately behind **Pré St. Didier** by a series of steep zigzags, presenting striking views of the valley, and of Mont Blanc, especially from the mouth of the tunnel. On reaching level ground, overhanging the deep rift in the mountain through which the branch of the Doire from La Thuille bursts into the plain of St. Didier, the scene is particularly fine. The road is bordered by a pine-forest, of which some vast old trunks hang over the precipices, and help to conceal the deep torrent which roars beneath. It runs for some way along the l. bank of the stream through fine woods, continually ascending and descending till the village of **La Balme** is reached (1 hr. 10 min. from Pré St. Didier). Here the road crosses to the rt. bank, and winds steeply upon the mountain side at a great height above the torrent; it being impracticable to form even a path in the depth of the valley, which is here a ravine. There are occasional peeps of the river, and one of particular interest, where in spring avalanches fall from the Crammont into the ravine, sometimes in such quantity that the snow remains, under the shadow of the mountain, unmelted for the year. This is the spot, in the opinion of some who have carefully examined into the subject, where Hannibal and his army found the way, by which they could have descended, destroyed, and his elephants and horses passed with difficulty over a bridge of snow. The road formerly lay on the l. bank of the river, but, since 1800, the present road has been made on the other side, high above all risk from avalanches. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from La Balme the road

returns to the l. bank, and, the ravine being passed, the village of

**La Thuille** (4278 ft.) is reached, and the glaciers of the Rutor open upon the traveller.

[A short way above La Thuille the stream from the glacier of the Rutor may be crossed, and a path taken to the valley of Aosta, by some beautiful pasturages, and through a forest overhanging the precipices above Pré St. Didier, from which the view of Mont Blanc is inferior only to that from the Crammont. After crossing the *Camp of Prince Thomas of Savoy* (formed about 1640, and utilized in 1794), the path descends the steep mountain side on the rt. bank of the Doire to Morgex ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m.).

From La Thuille a pleasant path, mounting through very picturesque forest scenery, and past several waterfalls, leads to the alp of *Ste. Marguerite* and the great glacier of the Rutor ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.). Near the chalets (where there is a Club hut) is a little tarn at the edge of the ice, in which icebergs frequently float, a smaller Märjelen See. After an ascent over rough ground, it is easy to enter on the great glacier, and to climb ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 hrs. from the alp) any of the summits of the *Rutor*, near the highest of which (11,438 ft.) a Club hut has lately been built. From their position between Mt. Blanc and the great Graian group these command a superb view. The gaps between them serve as passes to mountaineers, or the descent may be made nearly direct from the peaks themselves. Beginning on the N. the

*Col de Planaval* leads to the alp of Planaval and the lower Val Grisanche.

The *Col du Rutor*, the gap N. of the highest summit, leads to Val Grisanche in 7 hrs.; an hr. more is required if the peak is ascended.

The *Col du Grand Assaly* leads S. of the peak of the Grand Assaly to Ste. Foy, as does the *Col du Bec du Lac*.

There are three passes—the *Col du Tachuy*, the *Col de la Loys Blanche*, and the *Col du Grand Glacier*—from the

lower part of the V. du Rutor to the Tarentaise. All are high, steep, and fit only for good walkers.

The *Col de St. Grat*, at the very head of the Rutor Glacier, leads to the chapel of that name on the Col de la Sachère track, and to Fornet in Val Grisanche (Rte. 148).

The *Col de Chavannes* leads through the glen of the same name to the head of the Allée Blanche, close to the Col de la Seigne ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.).

In 6 hrs. from La Thuille the *Mont Farre* or *Berrier Blanc* (10,693 ft.) may be reached, the panorama being very fine.]

The road to the Little St. Bernard turns sharp to the rt. at the bridge of La Thuille, ascends rapidly to **Pont Serrand**—the last village—and, after crossing a very deep ravine, and passing the village, becomes more steep, but presents little interest except to the geologist. At the top of the ascent is the *Cantine*, where refreshments can be obtained, and the road then enters on a fine pasturage on a plain about a league long, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a league wide, bounded l. by the Belvédère and Valézan, rt. by *Lancebrancelette*, at the foot of which lies the little *Lac Verney*. After passing some ruined buildings, partly Roman and in part believed to be those of the original hospice, the road passes the highest point (7179 ft.), and the traveller sees before him, at the opposite extremity of the plain, the rebuilt hospice.

On the plain, however, are objects of high antiquity. A circle of stones on the most elevated point of the plain, bears still the name of *Cirque d'Annibal*. The stones are rude masses, varying in size, none very large; they are about 10 ft. apart, and the circle measures nearly 260 yds. round.

Near the circle stands a column, the *Colonne de Joux* (La Joux pronounced Latzou), supposed to be of Celtic origin. It is nearly 20 ft. high, and 3 ft. in diameter. It is composed of Cipollino, a variety of marble which abounds on the Cram-

mont. Considerable fortifications have lately been erected on the pass by the Italians. The frontier line of France and Italy passes along the crest of the pass. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the Colonne de Joux and just in France (though belonging to Italy) is the

**Hospice**, 7064 ft. above the sea, at the S.W. extremity of the plain, close to a little lake. The Rector furnishes refreshment at a moderate tariff to travellers.

The hospice was founded by St. Bernard of Menthon in the 11th cent. The Celtic remains which still exist here, and the foundations of a temple constructed of Roman brick near the column, show, however, that the pass was known in earlier times. From the 11th–13th cents., the hospice was styled *hospitale columnae Jovis*, the name *domus Sancti Bernardi montis Jovis* occurring first in 1181, and later the pass was called Mont Jouvét, to distinguish it from the Mont Joux, or Great St. Bernard. The hospice was from 1466 (possibly earlier), dependent on that of the Great St. Bernard, but about 1750 was handed over to the Military and Religious Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus, and is dependent on the house at Aosta. One or two dogs are kept.

[It is easy to ascend the adjoining peaks of the *Valézan* (8489 ft.), or the *Belvédère* (8668 ft.). The latter is reached in 1 hr.; the former, more difficult, but commanding a finer view, in 1 hr. 40 min. Mont Blanc, which is not seen from the col of the Little St. Bernard, is from either summit a magnificent object. The view is of great extent, commanding the mountains far S. of the Tarentaise, and looking across to the glaciers of the Rutor. The *Lancebrancelette* (9623 ft.), 3 hrs. N.W., commands a still finer prospect. A delightful day's excursion is to the cross on the *Col de Fourcla*, just N. of the Belvédère and bearing to the rt. to visit the Vallon de Thuillette,



Vallon des Glaciers, &c., under the Rutor.

Travellers bound to the upper valley of the Isère may shorten the way to Ste. Foy (Rte. 148) by ascending, nearly due S. from the hospice, the ridge of the Traversette, to which cannon were transported during the Revolutionary war. The descent to Ste. Foy is rather steep, but this path saves nearly 2 hrs.]

The descent to Bourg St. Maurice begins immediately from the hospice by a good carriage-road. (By the old mule-path the distance is reduced more than one-half.) At the *Cantine* refreshments can be obtained; the road soon after takes to the rt. bank of the stream, and continues over pasturages resembling those of the Col de Balme, till it descends steeply to the village of **St. Germain**.

Thence zigzags lead down to the village of **Sééz**, at the foot of the pass, and at the entrance of the Val de Tignes. Beyond it is a bridge over the torrent of the Recluse, which is overhung at the point of passage by an enormous bank of gypsum, bearing the name of the *Roche Blanche*, which has been identified with the *λευκόπετρον* of Polybius.

From the village of Sééz  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. of nearly level road leads to

**Bourg St. Maurice** (*Berigentrum*), a town of 2602 Inhab., rather prettily situated in a broad flat vale full of poplars, under the pine-forests of *Mt. Pourri*, and at the junction of several valleys. Its lofty campanile is a conspicuous landmark; and to the N., on a high point projecting from the mountain side, is a chapel of St. Michael.

To the Val de Tignes and the Col d'Iseran (Rte. 156).

To Chapieux and the Col de la Seigne by the Val de Bellaval (Rte. 139).

## ROUTE 150.

**A. SALLANCHES TO ANNECY OR ALBERTVILLE, BY UGINES—ST. MAXIME DE BEAUFORT.**

**B. ANNECY TO BONNEVILLE; OR TO FLUMET BY THE COL DES ARAVIS.**

**A. From Sallanches** (Rte. 138) a new high-road has been constructed, opening a communication between the valley of the Arve and that of the Isère, in the Tarentaise. It is strongly recommended to travellers, as offering a succession of lovely scenes and views. It is  $26\frac{3}{4}$  m. from Sallanches or St. Gervais le Village to Albertville, the diligence taking from Chamonix 9 hrs. to Albertville, or (with steamer)  $11\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to Annecy.

The road rises directly up the steep side of one of the slopes of *Mont Foron* to the village of **Combloux**, about 1 hr's. ascent. Its gay spire is seen from the road to Chamonix, near Passy, and also from the valley of Magland. From each zigzag in the ascent to Combloux there is a most beautiful prospect, well worth a walk from Sallanches. It commands the valley of Magland on one side, and the upper valley of the Arve on the other. The Aiguille de Varens rises in front of the spectator; and on the rt. of the upper Arve, the peaks and glaciers of *Mont Blanc*, and its extreme summit, are admirably seen. Few spots for such a prospect can vie with the village of Combloux.

A little beyond Combloux the watershed is passed. Thence the distance is 3 miles, over a road nearly level, to

( $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Sallanches) **Mégève**, (3691 ft. above the sea), amidst beautiful meadows. From Mégève a path leads to Beaufort over the ridge which divides the valley of the Arly from the valley of Haute Luce, by the *Col de Véry*, crossed by the Vaudois in 1689 (see Rte. 139).

[Mégève is the place whence the *Mont Joly* may be most easily ascended (3½ hrs. up or 5 hrs.' walk going and returning, Rte. 139). There is a small *Inn* 1 hr. below the top. It may also be reached from Sallanches, St. Gervais, or Contamines. The summit (8291 ft.) is a fine point of view, but a preferable excursion is perhaps that to the *Croix de Christomet* (6027 ft.), descending along the crest of the hills to Combloux, a walk of wonderful beauty. There is a carriage-road to St. Gervais, commanding splendid views all the way, which turns off from the road to Combloux about ½ a mile from Mégève (Rte. 138).]

From Mégève the road to **Ugines** descends the valley of the Arly through pastoral scenery with occasional glimpses of the chain of Mt. Blanc, to

(5 m.) **Flumet**, a picturesque town of 898 Inhab., near the confluence of the Arondine and the Arly. On a rock are the ruins of a castle, in which the first barons of Faucigny resided. In 1228, Aimo II. granted a charter of liberties to Flumet which presents curious and not yet fully explained points of resemblance to the charter given in 1249 by the Duke of Zähringen to the city of Friburg, in Switzerland.

[Hence a road mounts N. towards the Col des Aravis, see below. Another road is commenced to Haute Luce and Beaufort. Fine view from the bridge over the Arly.]

The valley of the Arly is a gorge, and bears the name of the *Combe de Savoie*. The new road soon descends into the deep bed of the river, which it accompanies through a long and picturesque defile. The upland slopes are rich in walnut-trees, and the oil which the nuts produce is an important article of commerce. A descent of 9¼ m. leads to

**Ugines**, a large ill-built town, containing 2631 Inhab., famous for its fairs of cattle and mules. To the N., on a steep limestone rock, are remains of the *Castle*, attacked in the

9th cent. by the Saracens, and destroyed in 1335 by Humbert, Baron of La Tour du Pin, who was in right of his wife Dauphin of the Viennois, and Baron of Faucigny. The town is situated on the rt. bank of the Arly, on the road between Annecy and Albertville (Rte. 152), at the foot of *Mont Charvin*, which rises due N. 7920 ft. above the sea. [Hence it is 12½ m. to the S. end of the Lake of Annecy, and 10½ m. more by road, or 1¼ hr. by steamer, to Annecy. See Rte. 152 at the end.]

From Ugines the road runs down 5 m. to Albertville, through a deep and rich valley. On the other side of the Arly is seen the entrance to the valley of Beaufort, and the Doron, which flows through it.

**Albertville** is the name given, 1845, in compliment to the King of Sardinia, Charles Albert, to two villages, *l'Hôpital* and *Conflans*, on opposite sides of the Arly, but the official name generally designates *l'Hôpital* only. Albertville, with its wide and clean streets, gay shops, and linden-tree avenues, is one of the neatest little towns in Savoy; it has 5086 Inhab., and lying on the high road, by which communication is opened with Ugines, Annecy, and Sallanches, with Chambéry, and with Moutiers Tarentaise, it has, since the establishment of good roads, been increasing in importance. It has several handsome public buildings—the *Préfecture*, with garden and fountain; *Maison de Ville*; *Palais de Justice*, &c. Railway to S. Pierre d'Albigny on the Mt. Cenis line (Rte. 154). *Diligences* by Faverges to Annecy (28 m., Rte. 152, at end), and to Moutiers (17 ms.).

On the other side of the broad bed of the Arly, which is crossed by a handsome stone bridge, rise the ivy-clad ramparts of the old-fashioned and picturesque town of

**Conflans**, with about 1300 Inhab. It was formerly defended by two very strong forts, and resisted the troops of Francis I. in the war of 1536,



when it was partly burnt, and its two forts demolished. It has one or two curious old buildings (including a 12th cent. convent), and from its *Promenade* on the rampart (20 min. walk), a fine view down the valley of the Isère (which receives the Arly a little below), towards the Grande Chartreuse mountains. The *church*, which contains a curious wooden pulpit, commands a still finer prospect from the top of the tower. The valley of the Isère turns at a rt. angle, and is seen on two sides in long perspective—broad and poplar-covered towards Chamousset, but shut in towards Moûtiers. The great variety in the forms of the surrounding mountains, vine-clad on their lower slopes, will be noticed from the bridge. On the banks of the river is a smelting-house, where the silver from the ore raised in the neighbourhood is reduced.

[Every visitor to Albertville should make an excursion to the valley of Beaufort, which a pedestrian may take on his road to Chamonix; Courmayeur, or Bourg St. Maurice. The point to be attained is the principal village,

**Beaufort, or St. Maxime de Beaufort** ( $11\frac{3}{4}$  m., a drive of 3 hrs.). There is an excellent carriage-road, but it is worth while to walk.

Ascending from *Albertville* through a grove of Spanish chestnuts, the road quickly enters the beautifully wooded and narrow valley of the Doron, winding between the *Bisanne*, N., *Mirantin*, S.

Looking from the village, to the l. is the opening of the valley of Haute Luce, with ruins of two old towers, and in front wooded buttresses, like side-scenes, one behind the other. There is a château to the rt., and the mountains are green with pines. The valley seems to end at Beaufort, but it is continued through a remarkable gorge.

Beaufort itself is picturesque, with 2 old mossy bridges over the clear and rapid torrent, and several cheerful châteaux, in one of which (La Salle)

Henri IV. spent part of October 1600. It is beautifully situated, deep among the mountains, at the junction of 2 valleys with that of the Doron, which above this point is called the *Val de la Gitte* (or *Gitta*). The *Val de Haute Luce* falls into it from the N., the *Val Poncellamont* from the S. By the former, up which a carriage-road runs for 5 m., as far as Haute Luce, Contamines is reached in 6 hrs. by the *Col du Joly*; or the chalet *Inn* of La Barme by the *Enclave de la Fenêtre*. By the latter are 3 passes to Moûtiers, in the valley of the Isère, *Col de la Bathie*, S.W. (first turning rt., opposite Arèches), in about 8 hrs.; *Col de la Louze* and *Col du Cormet*, far finer passes, S.W. and S.E. from the head of the valley, in about 11 hrs. (3 along the high-road, to which the paths descend, between Albertville and Moûtiers).

About 2 m. above Beaufort the valleys of Treicol and Roselend, from the W. and N. sides of the *Aig. du Grd. Fond*, join that of the Gitte from the S. By the former is the *Col du Coin*, which joins the Cormet rte.; by the latter, the *Col de Roselend* to Chapieux.

At the head of the Val de la Gitte is the *Col de la Sauce*, opening on the Col du Bonhomme, and at the head of its N. branch a second *Col de la Fenêtre*, crossed by the Vaudois in 1689 (Rte. 139), leading to the little *Inn* of La Barme lower down the Bonhomme.

Just above Beaufort, in a deep recess, is the entrance to the romantic gorge of the Gitte, barely allowing space for the free passage of the torrent. In  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. it expands, and, crossing to the l. bank, the path ascends through a beautiful opening, and then dense pine-forest to some chalets and a wider basin (1 hr.) to which 3 streams descend. Here the opening of the *Val Treicol*, joined to the l. by the glen of *Roselend* leading to Chapieux, is passed on the rt. The Doron falls to the basin from the E. through a steep ravine, and the path in that direction, first crossing the

main stream, mounts a forest in zig-zags. At the top is a wild glen, and then a broad upland valley of pasture (1 hr.) surrounded by the mountain tops. The *Col de la Sauce* is straight ahead; the *Enclave de la Fenêtre* to the l. The mule-path towards the latter ends ( $\frac{3}{4}$  hr.) at the chalets and little chapel of *Gitte*, and the track is ill-marked up pastures to the *Col* (1 hr. 50 min.—about 5 hrs. from Beaufort). The ridge is crowned by fantastic rocks, and a steep slope of débris and a green alp lead down the other side to the inn of the *Chalet à la Barne*,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Contamines.

Between the Doron and Dorinet of the Val de Haute Luce rise the *Rochers des Enclaves*—a curious granite group arranged round an oval basin, so shut in by the granitic ridge that the waters from it are discharged through subterranean channels, or over numerous fine falls into the valley of *Gitte*. N. of it is the little *Lac de la Girottaz*, and in the centre of the basin are the chalets of *Outray*.]

### B. Annecy to Bonneville, or to Flumet by the Col des Aravis.

Good roads, little known to English travellers, lead direct from Annecy through the lower mountains of Savoy to the valley of the Arve, passing through charming pastoral scenery and affording pleasant variations on the frequented approach to Chamonix by Geneva.

**Pont St. Clair**, 5 m. from Annecy. Near here are remains of an old Roman road, and in the face of the Parmelan 3 of the curious caves in which ice remains unmelted throughout the summer, known as *Glacières*. Close by the Roman road are the ruins of a monastery founded by St. Bernard of Menthon, whose birthplace, Menthon, is not far distant (Rte. 152). 8 m. further along the banks of the Fier is

**Thônes** picturesquely situated, (2054 ft.). The neighbouring sum-

mits of the *Tournette* (7733 ft., 5 hrs.) and *Mont Charvin* (7920 ft.,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.), command fine views. [Hence in 5 hrs. by the *Col du Nantet* to Talloires, on the Lake of Annecy, Rte. 152]. 5 m. beyond Thônes the village of **St. Jean de Sixt** (3202 ft.) is reached. This stands on the water-shed. [Hence a char-road, becoming gradually a footpath, leads to Cluses by the *Vallée du Reposoir*, Rte. 138]. The road to Bonneville now descends the course of the Borne. The road soon reaches the river, and passes through a fine defile before reaching ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m.)

**Entremont**. Hence a pleasant drive of  $10\frac{1}{2}$  m. passing *Le Crêt*, the largest village of the valley, and crossing a brow commanding a fine view of the valley of the Arve, leads to

**Bonneville** (see Rte. 138), 31 m. from Annecy.

[The road to Sallanches leaves that described above at St. Jean de Sixt, and follows the Nom southwards to a gap in the long *Chaine des Aravis*.

**La Clusaz**, 3 m., carries on a large timber trade.

The *Col des Aravis* (4915 ft.), 5 m., is a plain some  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. long, commanding a superb view of Mont Blanc. Here the road suddenly comes to an end. The descent to **La Giettaz** is by a very rough cart-track; thence a good road leads through a very picturesque defile to **Flumet**, 5 hrs.' walk from St. Jean de Sixt (see above). From La Giettaz pedestrians may find direct and easy paths, commanding exquisite views of Mont Blanc, over the hills to Combloux].

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## ROUTE 151.

### CULOZ TO AIX-LES-BAINS AND CHAMBÉRY—RAILWAY.

From **Culoz Stat.** (Rte. 53) the line crosses the Rhone by a fine iron girder-bridge, traverses marshy



meadows and rich corn-fields, and in a short while reaches

$4\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Chindrieux Stat.**, near which is the ruined *castle of Châtillon* on a rock, commanding a splendid view of the *Lac du Bourget*. After some remarkable pieces of rly. engineering, the line reaches the E. shore of the lake. The views over the lake, of the convent of Haute Combe, and, further up, of the pointed *Dent du Chat*, with a fine range of mountains beyond, are very beautiful. After passing through four tunnels, the tr. reaches

$13\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Aix-les-Bains Stat.**, (846 ft.), 10 hrs. (361 m.) from Paris.

There are numerous boarding houses and lodgings. Carriages 3 fr. an hour, and *Tariff* for horses and boats.

This watering-place, situated 1 m. to the E. of the pretty *Lac du Bourget*, and containing 5580 Inhab., was known to the Romans as *Aquæ Gratiæ*, and is still resorted to on account of its mineral springs, and of the attractions of the beautiful country round it, by many thousand visitors yearly, many coming from Lyons, and more for amusement than for the baths.

Its *Mineral Springs* are warm and sulphureous. They issue from two sources near to each other, but at different levels. One, the *Sulphur Spring*, has a temperature of  $113^{\circ}$  Fahr., and yields about 341 gallons per minute; and the other, the *St. Paul* or *Alum Spring* (incorrectly so called, as it contains no alum); is  $116^{\circ}$ , and yields about 735 gallons per minute, and contains more iron and calcareous carbonate as well as sulphate of alumina.

The sulphur spring is drunk at the source, and is good for chronic rheumatism and gout, cutaneous diseases and derangement of the digestive organs. These waters, however, are chiefly employed for baths,—and above all for douche baths. There is a very handsome and well-arranged Thermal establishment; it was built by a former

king of Sardinia, and was greatly enlarged and furnished with the newest appliances in 1860 by the grant of a large sum from Napoleon III. and again in 1880.

The hot water is conveyed into the establishment and applied for douches at a pressure varying from 10 to 60 feet. The bathing is regulated by a *chef de service*, under whom are six *surveillants*, 50 male and female *doucheurs* and *frotteurs*, and 88 porters for carrying patients in sedan chairs from the baths to their hotels. The baths are open all winter (as are some of the hotels—Grand Hotel, Europe, Nord, Bergues), but the season commences on April 15th.

There is a regular code of laws as to the baths, and there are two fine swimming-baths.

Balls and concerts are frequently given during the season in the *Cercle*, where there is also a reading-room and restaurant. The *Villa des Fleurs* contains restaurant, concert-, and ballrooms, theatre, and gaming rooms. There are several practical local hand-books. *Aix-les-Bains, Martignoz, et leurs Environs*, Hachette, Paris, is recommended.

There are several interesting *Roman Remains*: a sepulchral arch in debased Doric style, probably of the 3rd or 4th cent., raised by Lucius Pompeius Campanus to the memory of his family; a portion of an Ionic temple of Diana, built of large blocks of calcareous stone, of which the cella is perfect, contains the local *Museum*. The *Château* of the Marquises of Aix, a building of the 16th cent., is now the Hôtel de Ville. Post and Telegraph office. The *Roman Baths* are entered from Madame Chabert's garden. The principal portion visible is an hypocaust. The vaulting is a most perfect piece of construction, well worthy of attention.

The *Thermal Caverns* of St. Paul (tickets, 50 c.), reached by a subterranean gallery, are curious, and contain large stalactites

About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant on the Chambéry road is **Marlioz**, neatly laid-out grounds with mineral springs and inhaling rooms, sometimes used as an adjunct to the Aix waters. The geology of the district is the Neocomian strata of the cretaceous group overlying the Jurassic formation.

*Branch Rly.* (25 m.) from Aix to Annecy (Rte. 152) in 1 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. by Albens, Rumilly, then up the romantic valley of the Fier by Lovagny, where the Gorge du Fier (Rte. 152) is well worth visiting.

To visit the monastery of the *Grande Chartreuse* (HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE, Rte. 131) from Aix or Chambéry the easiest way is to go by rail to the Stat. of the *Cascade de Couz* on the direct line to Lyons, and thence drive to St. Laurent du Pont, where the rte. from Grenoble is joined (Rte. 153 below). Diligences run from Chambéry to St. Laurent du Pont. A longer drive from Chambéry to the monastery is by the Echelles, St. Pierre d'Entremont, and the *Col du Cucheron* ( $31\frac{3}{4}$  m.).

**Excursions.** There are numerous rides and walks in the neighbourhood, through varied and beautiful scenery. The nearest are to the villages of Tresserve, Mouxy, St. Innocent, the castles of Bourdeau, Bonport, and Châtillon on the borders of the lake.

**Grésy**,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. Old tower at the village and waterfalls, five min. from the rly. stat. Here the stream flows through deep chasms in the rock, overgrown with verdure, and picturesque old saw-mills. In 1813 the Baroness de Broc, a young lady in attendance on Queen Hortense, unfortunately perished by slipping from a plank into the pool below. The spot is marked by a monument and inscription.

**Haute Combe**, on the opposite or N.W. shore of the *Lac du Bourget*. Boat 8 fr., with two boatmen, including return. A small steamer plies during the summer.

This monastery, situated below the Mont du Chat, and slightly raised above the lake, was founded by Amadeus III., Count of Savoy in 1125, the original monks (of the order of St. Basil, from Aulph in the Chablais), embracing the Cistercian rule at the request of St. Bernard of Clairvaux. It was the burying-place of the Princes of Savoy, among whom are Boniface, Archbishop of Canterbury, son of Count Thomas of Savoy, who died 1270; Amadeus V., VI., and VII.; Jeanne de Montfort and her husband; Peter of Savoy, 'le petit Charlemagne,' brother of Archbishop Boniface; Anne of Zähringen, &c. The convent, erected 1743, was pillaged and desecrated and the church rifled and destroyed during the French Revolution (1793). About the year 1824 it was entirely rebuilt in florid but debased Gothic by Charles Felix, King of Sardinia. The monuments are numerous, all, however, modern, or so much restored as to leave little of the original. The convent is again occupied by Cistercian monks, and when Savoy was ceded to France in 1860 was specially excepted from the treaty, remaining in the hands of the Counts of Savoy who have become Kings of Italy.

Near Haute Combe is a tower, called *Phare de Gessens*, the view from which is described by Rousseau. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond the Abbey is an intermittent spring, called *Fontaine des Merveilles*.

**Lac du Bourget.** About 10 m. in length by 3 m. in breadth. Its level is 758 ft. above the sea, 112 ft. below the Aix Baths, and 472 ft. below the Lake of Geneva; its waters find their exit into the Rhone from its northern end. It is stated to be in some places 500 ft. deep. The boats both on this lake and that of Annecy are very good, and superior to those on the Swiss lakes—the men row well, and understand sailing. The charges are regulated by a *Tariff* of 3 fr. the hour. A steamer



makes the tour of the lake in summer. The fishing is excellent, and travellers can secure good sport. The W. margin of the lake consists of a tall precipice of limestone, rising almost perpendicularly from the water's edge, and extending from Haute Combe to Bourdeau. A pleasant way of seeing the scenery of the lake, for a good pedestrian, is to take a boat to Haute Combe, sending it on to Bourdeau, and walking by agreeable bypaths along the heights above the lake, descending to Bourdeau by the main road over the Mont du Chat.

For those who enjoy mountain ascents an interesting excursion may be made from Aix to the summit or slopes of the *Dent du Chat*, the highest point in the range of limestone mountains, the W. boundary of the lake.

The shortest way is to cross the lake from Aix to Bourdeau on the high road from Chambéry to Lyons by Yenne. The road ascends the side of the mountain, winding along steep slopes which command admirable views over the lake, until it attains the pass of the *Mont du Chat* (2093 ft. above the sea). This is one of the most ancient passages from France into Italy, and was probably the most frequented before the construction of the road by Les Echelles (Rte. 153).

On the summit of the pass there is a level, about 300 yds across, covered with stones, rocks, and brushwood. A temple formerly stood here, of which the foundations may be traced, and many of the stones around made part of the building. They have been well cut, and the cornices of many are yet tolerably perfect. An inscription found here has given rise to the idea that the temple was dedicated to Mercury, or more probably to his Gallic equivalent, the god Theut, who, like him, presided over highways. The mountain was called *Mons Thuates*, probably from this temple.

Even without ascending to the top

of the mountain, the view from the slope is very fine. Looking towards France, the scene is most fertile, studded with villages and towns, and so extensive that where the distant mountains of Tarare do not limit the horizon, it subsides into indistinctness.

Immediately below, on the same side, are the rich pasturages of the W. slopes of the Mont du Chat. Beyond these are the valley of the Rhone, and the hills and plains which extend to the Ain. To reach the highest point, called the *Dent du Chat*, descend the road towards Yenne for  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr., then take a path to the l., which leads in 20 min. to a small *Inn*. Thence along the ridge overlooking the col, and ascending the E. side of the *Dent* to the top, is a scramble of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr., or 3 hrs. from Bourdeau. An inexperienced person should take a guide.

From the summit (4912 ft. above the sea) the view on the eastern side is one of surpassing beauty. The mountain appears to overhang the lake, into whose deep blue waters it seems only a leap. Beyond is the valley of Chambéry, extending to the *Mont Granier* (6358 ft.); Aix-les-Bains is at your feet, and on the rt. Chambéry lies like a model; numerous hamlets speckle the beautiful valley, which is bounded on the opposite side by the rich slopes of the *Mont d'Azy*, and the *Dent du Nivolet* (5095 ft.); far beyond are seen the mountains of the Val d'Isère, and the snowy summits of the Dauphiné Alps.

At the S. extremity of the lake are the ruins of the *Castle of Bourget*, built 1248, the residence of the Counts of Savoy to the 16th cent. Amadeus V., called the Great, who was born here in 1249, sent for the painter Giorgio di Aquila, a pupil of Giotto, to decorate its interior; and some fragments of fresco, now nearly effaced, in a cabinet formed in the thickness of the wall of one of the towers, are probably a part of his work.

Aix and the Lac du Bourget are sketched by Lamartine, not very correctly, in his story of *Raphael*.

N.B. Those who approach Chamoinix by Aix, and do not wish to go round by Geneva, may cross from Annecy by rly. to La Roche and Cluses (Rtes. 138 and 152).

Soon after leaving the Aix station, the Marlioz Etablissement is seen on the l., whilst on the rt. is the wooded bank of Tresserve. Beyond it another peep of the lake is caught. The line then runs through flat meadows to

22 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Chambéry Stat.** (883 ft.) (Ital. *Ciamberi*), since 1232 (when it was bought from its lords) the capital of Savoy, now of the department of Savoy, and since 1817 an archbishop's see (the bishop's see having only been erected in 1779). It contains 20,916 Inhab., and is pleasantly situated within a circle of mountains. The streets are rather picturesque, and have an air of activity, although the population remains stationary, and the town contains little to interest the traveller. A peculiar silk-gauze is made here, and the manufactory, at a pretty château called **La Calamine**, is shown to strangers.

The **Cathedral**, a Gothic building (14th cent., finished 1430), curiously painted in imitation of the stone tracery of the 15th cent., is neither large nor interesting.

By flights of sloped terraces you may ascend to the **Castle** of the Dukes of Savoy (13th–15th cents.), presenting a very picturesque and imposing appearance. It was burnt in 1798, only 3 of the towers, the chapel, and the part next the town escaping. The chapel (begun 1415) is in the style of the Sainte Chapelle at Paris, and has some beautiful lancet windows of painted glass. The interior is painted in imitation of Flamboyant tracery. One side of the castle-yard is occupied by a sin-

gularly ugly modern building, now residence of the Préfet, within which are the very simple apartments formerly occupied by the Sardinian Royal Family. A singular and stately staircase leads up one of the towers. From the top (adm. 20 c.) there is a noble view.

Before the French Revolution there were 20 convents in Chambéry: there are still seven, four of which are nunneries.

Among the most conspicuous buildings are the modern **Palais de Justice**, **H. de Ville** (1864), and **Barracks**. In the **Museum** opposite the Palais de Justice is a collection of objects found in lake-dwellings, Roman antiquities, costumes, maps, &c.; and here too is the **Public Library**, containing 40,000 volumes and a few pictures, none of them calculated to afford the stranger much gratification; there is also a **Theatre** and a **College**.

**St. Réal**, author of the *Conjuration contre Venise*, was born at Chambéry, 1639; and the **Comte Xavier de Maistre**, author of the *Voyage autour de ma Chambre*, was also a native. This town boasts among her citizens **General de Boigne**, who, having made an immense fortune in the East Indies, in the service of the Rajah Scindia, bestowed the greater portion of it, to the amount of 3,417,850 fr., in benefactions to his native place. He founded two hospitals, and set on foot many improvements. A street has been named after him, and in it a **monument**, consisting of a fountain ornamented with figures of elephants, has been erected to his memory. He died 1830.

On a rock rising on the rt. bank of the Leysse, a Roman site, stands the **Ch. of Lémenc**, the oldest in the district. In the crypt is the tomb of an Irish bishop, who died here in 1176, and in the church are General de Boigne's tomb and the grave of Madame de Warens.

About 20 minutes' walk to the S. of the town is **Les Charmettes**,



the residence of **Rousseau** and of his friend **Madame de Warens**. There is nothing in the place at present worth notice independently of its connection with **Jean Jacques**: the house has the appearance of a poor farm-house. **Rousseau's** room was the one over the entrance.

Those who desire a pleasant 2 hrs.' walk, may visit the ravine called **Le Bout du Monde**. The road to it turns out of that to **Turin** at the end of the **Faubourg de Montmélian**, follows the l. bank of the **Leyse** by the side of the great dyke, as far as the village of **Leyse**, where it crosses the stream, and, passing on the rt. the picturesque *castle of Chafardon*, enters the gorge of the **Doria**, which is closed in on all sides by high cliffs, forming the base of the **Dent du Nivolet**, and has no outlet. Behind a paper-mill, built by one of the **Montgolfiers**, the stream falls in a pretty cascade over the wall of rock here formed of remarkably regular and thin horizontal strata, through some of which the water forcing its way forms supplementary jets at a distance from the main fall.

$3\frac{3}{4}$  m. E. of **Chambéry** lies **Challes**, the source of a mineral water remarkable for its strength in sulphur, and also containing iodine and bromine; it is largely used in the treatment at **Aix-les-Bains**.

The *Dent du Nivolet* (5095 ft.), one of the highest of the **Beauges** mountains, may be best ascended on the E. side from **Les Déserts**, on the way up into the **Beauges** by the **Col de Plain Palais** (Rte. 152). The top may be reached in 4 hrs. on mules from **Chambéry**. There is a cross on the summit, which is plainly seen from **Chambéry**. Another delightful ascent (5-6 hrs.) is that of *Mont Granier* (6358 ft.), with curious chasms on its limestone summit. To the N. of it are the *Abîmes de Myans*, noticed in Rte. 154.

Direct rly. to **Pont de Beauvoisin** and **Lyons**, see Rte. 153; to **Turin**, Rte. 154.

## ROUTE 152.

### GENEVA TO ANNECY AND AIX-LES-BAINS—RAILWAY.

$37\frac{3}{4}$  m. from **Geneva** to **Annecy**,  
 $62\frac{1}{2}$  m. to **Aix-les-Bains**.

3 through trains daily each way, in  $3\frac{3}{4}$  to  $4\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to **Annecy**), and 3 local trains each way between **Annecy** and **Aix-les-Bains** in 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.

Tramway or rly. to ( $4\frac{1}{4}$  m.) **Anne-masse Junct.** (Rte. 138). Here the line from **Annecy** joins the line that runs in French territory from the **Fort de l'Ecluse** to **Thonon** and **Bouveret** (Rte. 57).

The line crosses the **Arve** and runs under the S. flank of the **Petit Salève** to

$6\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Mornex-Monnetier Stat.** (Rte. 53b), and past 2 small stations to

$14\frac{1}{4}$  m. **La Roche sur Foron Stat.** [Junction of the line from **Chamonix** and **Cluses** (Rte. 138).]

18 m. **St. Laurent Stat.** The line ascends in a wide curve to

$23\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Evires Stat.**, its highest point (2516 ft.), beyond which it passes several viaducts and a tunnel before reaching

28 m. **Groisy le Plot Stat.** [2 m. distant, at **Thorens**, formerly existed the *château of Sales*, where **St. François de Sales** was born in 1567.] Here the line enters the valley of the **Filliére**, which it follows, passing two small stations, to

$37\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Annecy Stat.** This industrious city of 11,334 Inhab. is situated at the N. extremity of the **Lake of Annecy**, which is discharged by canals crossing the streets. It was the residence of the bishop of **Geneva** from 1535 onwards, after he was expelled from his cathedral city, and in 1822 was erected into a separate see for the non-Swiss portions of the old diocese of **Geneva**. It is the capital of the department of **Upper Savoy** (**Haute Savoie**). The town is picturesque and clean, the

shops in many of its streets are under arcades, and there is an air of respectable antiquity about it—though this, the ancient capital of the Counts of the Gênevois, succeeded a still older one. In the 12th cent. it was known as *Anneciacum novum*, to distinguish it from *Anneciacum vetus*, which formerly existed on the slopes of the beautiful hill of Annecy-le-vieux. Numerous medals of the Roman emperors of the two first cents. of the Christian era have been found here, and inscriptions, sepulchres, urns, and fragments of statues, and of a temple, attest the presence of the conquering people.

When the house of Geneva became extinct, Annecy passed, in 1401, to that of Savoy. In 1412 it was totally burnt. To assist in restoring the inhab. to their town, Amadeus VIII., then count, later (1417) duke of Savoy, gave them many privileges, and enabled them to establish works for flax-spinning, which has continued to be its principal manufacture.

The **linen bleacheries**, which date from 1650, have always sustained a high reputation, and are still flourishing. Encouraged by Napoleon, the late Baron Duport, of Turin, introduced the first cotton-works. There are also manufactories of black glass, sulphuric acid, printed cottons, &c., and in the neighbourhood, at Entrevernes, a vein of lignite is worked, while at the village of *Cran* are oil, corn, and fulling mills on the Fier.

The 14th cent. **Château**, the residence of the family of Savoy-Nemours (extinct 1652), is now a barrack; in the Queen's tower are the oubliettes, torture-chamber, and furnace for heating the instruments of torture.

The 16th cent. **Cathedral** has a 'St. Peter and the Angel' by Mazzola di Valduggia. In the neighbouring **Ch. of St. François** are deposited the remains of St. François de Sales and of **Mère** (Sainte)

**Chantal**. Their translation from the Cathedral was made in 1826, with great ceremony.

The tender friendship that long subsisted between **St. Francis de Sales** and **La Mère Chantal** is well known, and the relics of the two canonized saints are regarded with great reverence.

St. Francis de Sales was a member of the noble family of de Sales (château near Thorens, not far from Annecy), and was born in 1567. Having devoted himself to the Church, and evinced great zeal and eloquence in its defence, he was consecrated in 1602 bishop of Geneva, and was the leader in the religious revival in Savoy and the neighbouring districts. He died at Lyons in 1622, and was buried at Annecy. His canonization took place in 1665; but before that event his remains were so highly valued by the inhab., that, when the city was taken by the French in 1630, one of the six articles of capitulation stipulated that the body of the Venerable Francis de Sales should never be removed from the city.

The **Museum** and **Library** (12,000 vols.) are in the Hôtel de Ville. The former contains Roman and other antiquities, 10,000 medals, mineral and nat. hist. collections, including 200 species of birds killed in Savoy. Here also are the remains of Dr. Hamel's guides, lost on Mt. Blanc in 1820. In the adjoining Public Garden is a statue of *Berthollet*, the chemist, by Marochetti.

Near the Hôtel de Ville is the 15th cent. Dominican **Ch. of St. Maurice**.

The **Préfecture** was built 1861-5 in the style of Louis XIII. The town has a **Theatre**, and a **Haras**, or horse-breeding estab., founded by Napoleon in 1806.

**Rousseau**, on escaping from Geneva, fled to Annecy, and many passages of the *Confessions* relate to his residence here.

The **Promenade du Pâquier** is



a beautiful *Avenue* where fairs and public amusements are held.

The charming **Lake of Annecy**,  $8\frac{3}{4}$  m. in length, and rather over 2 m. broad in its widest part, is 1467 ft. above the sea; it abounds in fish—the *lotte*, and one peculiar to this lake, the *vairon*. A steamer makes the tour of it thrice daily in  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. *Restaurant* on board. To the E. of it is the limestone mountain *La Tournette*; N.E. the *Parmelan*; W. *Le Semnoz*. (For the ascent of these points see below.)

Opposite Annecy, on Mt. Veyrier, are the houses once occupied by **Rousseau** and **Eugène Sue**.  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. distant by steamer, on the E. shore, stands **Menthon-les-Bains**, with a sulphureous spring, and remains of Roman baths, and in an opening of the mountains, the **Château de Menthon**, still the residence of a powerful family, as for many cents. past. Here **St. Bernard**, the 'Apostle of the Alps,' was born about 996 (his room is still shown, and the window out of which he is said to have escaped to avoid a distasteful marriage forced on him by his family—superb view from the terrace), and the place of his nativity, independent of its local beauty, cannot fail to interest the traveller.

The *Roche de Chère* separates Menthon from **Talloires**, the birthplace of **Berthollet** the chemist, in 1748. A little cove reflects the image of the *Tournette*, and a chestnut avenue leads a stranger to the ancient **Benedictine abbey** (part of which is now an *hotel*). The monastery was founded in the 9th cent., and reorganized by St François de Sales. Fragments of the 11th cent. church, and of the 13th cent. walls and turrets still survive. One of its old monks—**St. Germain**—retired (in the 10th cent.) up the mountain-side to a deeper solitude, and his **hermitage** on the edge of a chasm is well worth a visit. [Hence the *Col du Nantet* (4702 ft.) leads in 5 hrs. to *Thônes*.] Nearly opposite Talloires

is **Château Duingt**, crowning a headland, and near it a more ancient ruined tower, and the 15th cent. **Château of Heré**.

The **Gorges du Fier**, 10 min. from Lovagny Stat. ( $\frac{1}{4}$  hr.) on the Aix line, are remarkable. The torrent Fier rushes through a limestone fissure, in which a gallery has been constructed for 280 yds., and is to be carried farther. Admittance 1 fr., paid at a refreshment chalet which commands a good view of the *Château of Montrottier*. The gallery is fixed midway on the cliff, 88 ft. above the stream, and as far below the festoons of clematis and ivy, which form garlands overhead. The chasm is spanned by an old Roman bridge and modern rly. bridge, and terminates in another curiosity, a broad indented surface of rock, below which, on close inspection, the river may be detected silently streaming through a network of channels and holes, similar to those of the Perte du Rhône at Bellegarde. The walk may be extended over the Roman bridge to the *Château de Montrottier*, said to date from the 14th cent., but partly modernised. Beautiful view from its terrace, and at the bottom of a tower one of those dreadful oubliettes so common in foreign strongholds.

The establishment, at **Cran**, of the hydraulic machines for the drainage of the lake, is deserving of a visit.

From Annecy it is a pleasant drive of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  m. (diligence in  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., 5 fr.) to the village of **Châtelard**, the capital of the *Beauges* district, a curious plateau or basin ( $12\frac{1}{2}$  m. long by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. and 3255 ft. high), enclosed by a rugged belt or rampart of rock, one point of which is the *Dent du Nivolet*. Its inhabitants, 10,000 in number, are shepherds, said to preserve many interesting primitive institutions and customs. Easy passes lead in every direction, and there are carriage-roads, to Chambéry over the *Col de Plain Palais* (6 hrs.' walking) from below which

the Dent du Nivolet is accessible (Rte. 151), and to St. Pierre d'Albigny (12½ m.).

From Annecy the following ascents may be made:—

a. *La Tournette* (7733 ft.), 6 hrs. from Talloires; the last pinnacle or *Fauteuil* is difficult (see below under Faverges).

b. *Le Semnoz* (5591 ft.), called the Savoyard Rigi, 1¾ hr. from Annecy (rly. projected), with a large hotel near the summit.

c. *Parmelan* (6051 ft.), 8 hrs. by way of Dingy.

On this last mountain are *ice-caves*, of which the *Glacière du Grand Anu* is the best worth seeing.

[Carriage-road from Annecy to Bonneville, leaving rt. *Thorens*, where a little chapel marks the site of the château of St. François de Sales. A more beautiful rte. is by **Thônes**, from which Bonneville or Sallanches may be reached by carriage-road (Rte. 150) or by mule-path; or Cluses by St. Jean de Sixt (Rte. 150) and the secluded *Vallée du Reposoir* and its *Chartreuse* (Rte. 138).]

From Annecy to Aix the rly. passes through a rich and pleasing country to

41½ m. **Lovagny Stat.** for the Gorge du Fier. S. of the line, on the carriage-road is

**Alby**, a village of 1151 Inhab., situated on the Chéran, and with one of the most remarkable objects between Annecy and Aix, the fine stone bridge—a single arch of great height and span. This village was more important formerly when the Counts of the Gênevois surrounded it with a wall and castles, of which some traces exist. They were built on both sides of the river.

Between Lovagny and Marcellaz there are 10 viaducts or bridges and 2 tunnels.

45¼ m. **Marcellaz Stat.**, in the valley of the Fier.

49½ m. **Rumilly Stat.**, in the valley of the Chéran. The tower of the ch. is 12th cent.

54½ m. **Albens Stat.**, a village of 1679 Inhab. Near here is **St. Félix**, where Bishop Dupanloup of Orleans (d. 1878) was born in 1802. Beyond it the road overlooks the plain of Aix, where that town, the Lake of Bourget, and the basin of Chambéry, bounded by the Mont du Chat, the Mont d'Azy, and the Mont Granier, present a scene of singular beauty.

62½ m. **Aix-les-Bains Stat.** (Rte. 151).

The easiest road from Annecy to Faverges is carried along the W. shore of the Lake of Annecy, but the other is a prettier drive.

The diligences for Chamonix by Flumet and Mégève (Rte. 150) start in correspondence with the steamers (which take 1 hr. from Annecy) from the little harbour of *Bout du Lac* or *Doussard*, reaching Chamonix thence in 10½ hrs.

From the end of the lake the road runs up the valley of Eau Morte; it is so nearly level that the fields are often inundated.

5 m. **Faverges**, a town of 3141 Inhab., in the midst of rich meadows, wooded slopes, and mountains. It was known in the 12th cent. as *Fabricae*, a name derived from its numerous forges for copper and iron. It still possesses silk-mills, manufactories of cutlery, and tanneries; and since the completion of the road by Ugines into the Tarentaise has been daily improving. Its old castle is finely situated.

[N. of Faverges extends the *Tournette*, a limestone range of about 7700 ft. above the sea, commanding an exceedingly fine panoramic view. Its ascent, however, takes fully 6 hrs. from Faverges, and the actual top is not easy of access. It is called the *Fauteuil*, and is the summit of a curious rock, which rises like a tower from the comparatively level ridge. The sides of this rock actually overhang, and the summit can be reached only by climbing an awk-



ward chimney. A traveller may descend in 4 hrs. to Talloires, on the Lake of Annecy, from which side the ascent is very steep.]

A slight elevation or pass divides the head of the valley of the Eau Morte from that of the Chaise, or Monthoux, which runs into the Arly at Ugines (Rte. 150) and is richly wooded and picturesque. A good road from Faverges to Albertville along the plain, avoids the dirty town and hill of Ugines.

From Faverges it is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. to Ugines and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  m. to

**Albertville Stat.** (see Rte. 150A), which is about the same distance from Faverges by the much prettier carriage-road over the *Col de Tamié* (2979 ft.), just below which is the old Cistercian abbey of *Tamié*, founded in 1132 and suppressed in 1793.

## ROUTE 153.

### LYONS TO CHAMBÉRY.

A. By Les Echelles.

B. By Aiguebelette—Railway.

The express trains from Lyons to Chambéry follow the line from Lyons to Geneva (Rte. 53) as far as Culoz Junct. Stat. From Culoz to Chambéry the road is described in Rte. 151. A far more interesting course may be followed by either of the following rtes., the former being the formerly frequented high road, the latter the more difficult short cut, now more used as it is traversed by a rly.

A. By Les Echelles.

18 m. from St. Laurent du Pont to Chambéry by the carriage-road, on which diligences run.

By rly. from Lyons towards Grenoble to (60 m.) **Voiron Stat.**, from which place an extremely interesting expedition may be made to the Grande Chartreuse (See HANDBOOK

FOR FRANCE, Rte. 131) by the road to Les Echelles, turning off at **St. Laurent du Pont**,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the monastery. The traveller will return to St. Laurent du Pont, a few m. distant from the torrent of the Guiers Vif, which, before the annexation of Savoy, formed the frontier of France. This torrent is crossed at ( $3\frac{3}{4}$  m.) the village of

**Les Echelles** (possibly the Roman stat. of *Labisco*), from which a walk of 4 or 5 hrs. leads direct to the Grande Chartreuse by the *Col de la Ruchère*. [A longer but beautiful carriage-rte. to the monastery leads in about 18 m. from Les Echelles by way of St. Pierre d'Entremont and the Col du Cucheron.] The valley beyond this is a complete *cul de sac*. A wall of limestone, 800 ft. high, stretches directly across it; and from Les Echelles the eye in vain seeks for the means of exit. In former days the only road<sup>1</sup> was a path of the most rugged and difficult kind (apparently dating from Roman times), but the story that long ladders were used on it is a myth of the 18th cent. This was called the Chemin de la Grotte, or Les Echelles, from which the neighbouring village derived its name. The difficulty of the passage was increased at times by the mountain torrent, which, when swollen, took its course through the cavern. It was utterly impassable for mules: travellers were sometimes carried through it, seated upon an arm-chair attached to the backs of stout Savoyard peasants, who performed the service of beasts of burden, as the South American Indians do at the present day on some of the passes of the Andes.

An improved road was made between 1667 and 1670, by Duke Charles Emanuel II. of Savoy, at

<sup>1</sup> For a complete account of this road, see the admirable monograph by J. Martin-Franklin and L. Vaccarone, published in 1887 at Chambéry under the title of *Notice Historique sur l'ancienne Route de Charles Emmanuel II. et les Grottes des Echelles, avec Pièces justificatives, et Documents.*

considerable cost, by removing vast masses of rock, so as to render the way passable for carriages. Napoleon, however, struck out a new line, and (1804-1814) boldly pierced the mountain forming a tunnel 1011 ft. long, 26 ft. high, and 26 ft. wide, along which 2 diligences fully loaded may pass abreast. A pompous inscription, written by the Abbé St. Réal, commemorating the enterprise of Charles Emanuel in forming his road—which, though steep and narrow, and very inconvenient, was a grand undertaking for the period—may still be seen on the face of the rock.

(Near the commemorative monument set up in 1670 is a chalet *Restaurant*. Just before reaching the tunnel is the house of the *gardien*, who for 1 fr. will give admittance into the remarkable grottoes at the entrance of the gorge, which the old road traversed, and which are well worth visiting).

The road is now carried through a wilderness of rocks, which, after passing the highest point or *Col de Couz* (2051 ft.), gradually expands into a pretty valley.

#### 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ m. **St. Thibaud de Couz.**

Not far from this a waterfall of 164 ft. descends from the cliff on the rt., described by Rousseau as 'la plus belle que je vis de ma vie.'

Close to it is the rly. stat. of the *Cascade de Couz* (7 m., traversed in 20 min.) from Chambéry on the direct line to Lyons). By the road another contracted ravine is passed before reaching (17 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.) *Chambéry* (Rte. 151).

#### B. By Aiguebelette (Rly.).

Four trains daily each way between Lyons and Chambéry in 3 to 4 hrs. This line is the same as that from Lyons to Grenoble (HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE, Rte. 131) as far as the (39 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.) Stat. of *St. André-le-Gaz*, whence it is 26 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. more to Chambéry.

From St. André-le-Gaz the line passes by the stats. of **Les Abrets-**

**Fitilieu** and **Pressins**, before reaching (8 m.) that of **Pont de Beauvoisin**, a village cut into 2 bits by the *Guiers Vif*, which formed the frontier between Dauphiné and Savoy, and now forms the frontier between the departments of the Isère and of Savoy. The bridge, dates from the reign of Francis I. The line crosses the *Guiers* by a long viaduct and then makes a long bend to the S. to (11 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.) **St. Béron Stat.** Thence another bend to the N. and another long viaduct lead to (15 m.) **Lépin—Lac d'Aiguebelette Stat.**, near the S. end of the lake. A tunnel, 265 yds. long, pierces the wooded promontory between Lépin and Aiguebelette.

**Aiguebelette** is a poor little village, in a most beautiful situation. The lake is celebrated for the excellence and abundance of its carp, trout, and other fish. It is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. long, and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  wide, and its greatest depth is 164 ft. It lies at a height of 1234 ft. Around it are fields and meadows, but most of the mountain slopes are wooded. Oats, barley, potatoes, Indian corn, and flax are grown.

Beyond Aiguebelette the old *carriage-road* ascended a steep hill-side to the crest of the ridge, whence a fine view of Chambéry below was gained. It is thus described by an English traveller of the 17th cent.: 'Mount Aiguebellet hath all the lineaments and shapes of the great Alps, that is much winding and turning, deep precipices, Marons, or men with little open chairs to carry you up and down the hill for a crown; and much stumbling work.' The rly. pierces this ridge by the *Mont de l'Epine* tunnel (2 m. long) and then crosses the *Hyère* stream to (18 m.) **Cascade de Couz Stat.**, close to the waterfall of that name (see above, A). This is the starting-point for the monastery of the *Grande Chartreuse* by way of Les Echelles and St. Laurent du Pont (see A, and Rte. 151, and HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE, Rte. 131).



A steep slope leads down, passing **Cornittie**, a large Deaf and Dumb Asylum, and the line from Aix-les-Bains is rejoined just before reaching ( $26\frac{3}{4}$  m.) **Chambéry**:

### ROUTE 154.

CHAMBÉRY TO TURIN BY THE MONT CENIS RAILWAY, OR BY THE MONT CENIS PASS.

Distance 127 m.

Chambéry to Turin by rly., 7 to  $10\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.; 4 trains daily, 2 of which, in the morning and late at night, are expresses.

**Chambéry** (Rte. 151). Above it are passed on the l. the castle of *La Bâthie*, and farther on the towers of that of *Chignin*, links of a line of forts on which fires were lighted to alarm the inhabitants in time of war. For these rude means in the Middle Ages telegraphs have been substituted. Up the valleys of the Arc and Isère, the chain of old castles continues almost without an interruption. Rt. is *Mont Granier* (6358 ft.). The side facing Chambéry is a perpendicular escarpment, produced by the fall of an immense mass of the mountain in 1248: it buried 16 villages. The marks of this catastrophe are still visible in the series of hillocks, now covered with vineyards, called *Les Abîmes de Myans*, in the midst of which are a number of small lakes. *Mont Granier* stands in the angle between the valley of Chambéry and that of *Graisivaudan*, which leads to *Grenoble*, and is traversed by the *Isère*. On the l. bank of the river, a few m. down, stand the ruins of the **Château Bayard**, the birthplace (1476) of the illustrious knight 'sans peur et sans reproche,' and close to it the hamlet of **Avalon**, that (1135) of *St. Hugh*, bishop of *Lincoln*.

$6\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Chignin les Marches Stat.**, from which the *Abîmes* may be visited.

$8\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Montmélian Junct. Stat.** Branch Rly. to *Grenoble* (*HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE*, Rte. 132). This little town stands not far from the rt. bank of the *Isère*, at the junction of four roads:—from *Mont Cenis*, issuing out of the valley of the *Maurienne*; from the *Tarentaise* and *Little St. Bernard*; from *Grenoble* along the beautiful valley of *Graisivaudan*; from *Chambéry*. The castle of *Montmélian* was long a bulwark of *Savoy* against *France*. *Henry IV.*, while besieging it in 1600, was nearly killed by a cannon shot which covered him with dirt, and made the king cross himself devoutly; upon which *Sully* remarked, that he was happy to see that his Majesty was so good a Catholic. It was bravely and skilfully defended (1630) for 13 months against *Louis XIII.* by *Count Geoffrey Benso de Cavour*, an ancestor of the great modern statesman of that name. The works were demolished by *Louis XIV.*, who took the place in 1705. A few fragments of wall, crowning the rock above the town (formerly called *Mons Emilianus*), are the only remains of the former bulwark of *Savoy* and key of its *Alps*. A good white wine is grown near *Montmélian*.

[The **Baths of Allevard**, a much-frequented watering-place, 1558 ft. above the sea, in the beautiful valley of the *Bréda*, are some way S.E. of *Montmélian*, and best reached from the *Pontcharra Stat.* on the line to *Grenoble*, 5 m. from *Montmélian*. About 15 m. by a road turning l. from the valley of *Graisivaudan* at *Pontcharra* ( $6\frac{1}{4}$  m.). Walks or rides—to the gorge called *Bout du Monde*; the *Tour du Treuil*; the *Brame Farine* (3983 ft.), between the *Bréda* and the *Isère*; the *Chartreuse de St. Hugon*,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. E. beyond the *Pont du Diable*.

The *Grand Charnier* (8412 ft.) may be reached in 6 hrs., and *Puy Gris* (9712 ft.), the highest point in the ranges around *Allevard* in 8 hrs. by way of *Pinsot* and the *Gleyzin Glacier*. From the valley of the *Bréda* there

are several passes ; the *Col de Valloire*, *Col du Frêne*, and *Col du Merlet* to La Chambre on the Mt. Cenis road, by the Combe du Glandon or des Villards ; the *Col du Merdaret* to Grenoble ; and at the head of the valley the *Col de l'Homme* (7144 ft.) to Bourg d'Oisans. The latter track passes the *Sept Laux*, one of the curiosities of Dauphiné, a string of lakes, of which seven are of some size. Close to the largest, the *Lac du Cos*, is a small *Inn* fitted up for travellers by the Soc. des Touristes du Dauphiné (beds and provisions) about 8 hrs. from Allevard, and the finest excursion to be made thence. Hence the ascent of the *Rocher Blanc* (9616 ft.) can be made in 2 hrs., very fine view. The track on the S. side of the pass descends steep rocks to *Rivier d'Allemont* in the Combe d'Olle, thence to *Allemont*, and joins the road of the *Col du Lautaret* at *Sables*, 5 m. from Bourg d'Oisans. A shorter way from the *Inn* to Le Rivier is by the *Col de la Vache*, farther to W. The *Inn* at *La Ferrière*, 2½ hrs. above the Baths, is a good starting-point for these expeditions.]

The post-road follows the rt. bank of the Isère ; the rly. the l. on an embankment of several miles, having crossed the river on a long lattice-bridge near Montmélian. Near the stat. of (11¼ m.) **Cruet** is the village of *Coise*, with a mineral spring containing iodine, and reputed to be a specific for goitre. Beyond it is

15½ m. **St. Pierre d'Albigny** **Junct.** (Rly. to Albertville, 15 m., 40 min., Rte. 156). It is 25 min. by omnibus from the neat little town of 3033 Inhab. [Hence a carriage-road of 12½ m. leads up to *Châtelard* in the centre of the interesting Beauges district (Rte. 152).]. The slopes here are celebrated for wine. A little beyond St. Pierre is a fine feature of the valley, the

**Château de Miolans**, on a rock jutting out from the mountain side 800 or 900 ft. above the Isère. It commands extensive views up and

down the valley, and across into that of the Arc ; for it is nearly opposite the confluence of the rivers. This château belonged to one of the most ancient Savoyard families, distinguished as early as the 9th cent. ; but the male line becoming extinct in 1523, the château was bought by Charles III., Duke of Savoy, and made a state prison, which continued to be its use until the events of the French Revolution united Savoy to France, when it was dismantled.

18m. **Chamousset Stat.** Here the Mont Cenis rly. and high road leave the valley of the Isère for that of the Arc, called the Maurienne, a name which has nothing to do with Moors or Saracens, for it occurs in the 6th cent. under the form 'Morienna,' in the writings of Gregory of Tours.

23½ m. **Aiguebelle Stat.**, in a tolerably wide triangular plain, on which may be traced remains of a great Bergfall of 1760, which almost entirely destroyed the village. The country hereabouts is unhealthy from marshes. The neighbouring *Castle of Charbonnière*, was the original home of the Counts of Savoy, who also fortified Aiguebelle, which was frequently taken and retaken till in 1742 the Spaniards dismantled it. At **Randens** opposite are the ruins of the collegiate church of *St. Catherine*, founded 1267 by Peter d'Aigueblanche, Bishop of Hereford, and destroyed 1792. From 1267 to 1580 the ritual 'Use' of Hereford was observed here.

38 m. **La Chambre Stat.**, where there is a Romanesque church and the desecrated remains of another collegiate church (originally a Benedictine abbey dependent on St. Michel de la Cluse, near Turin), founded 1514 and destroyed 1792. Hence the glen of Glandon or des Villards runs up to the S.W., with many passes to Allevard, while the *Col du Glandon* leads to Rivier d'Allemont and Bourg d'Oisans, and the *Col de la Croix de Fer* to St. Jean d'Arves. From La Chambre the *Col*



*de la Madeleine* leads to Moûtiers Tarentaise.

44 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. **St. Jean de Maurienne Stat.**, the town on rt. *Inn.* Capital of the province of Maurienne (3000 Inhab., 1880 ft. above the sea), and original seat of the Dukes or Counts of Savoy. The bishop's see dates from the 6th cent. The *Cathedral* is of the 15th cent., and contains some good 15th cent. carved stalls and a stone reliquary. The vineyards grow a fair wine. [The *Col d'Arves* leads hence to St. Jean d'Arves, whence *Col de l'Infernet* and other passes to the Lautaret road (Rte. 158). From St. Jean de Maurienne to Moûtiers Tarentaise (Rte. 156) by the *Col de la Platière* in 10 hrs. A mule may be taken to the top. The path is steep to the village of *Hermillon*, and then nearly E. under precipices, to the little chapel of *N. D. de Mondandrey*. From this point it bears N. and N.E. to a hollow girt by cliffs, which are climbed in zigzags through a couloir to the pastures of Planey and *Chalets of Plan de Monsieur*. Here a rock, called the *Bonnet du Prêtre*, is seen in the depression which forms the *Col* (about 6800 ft.). The valley of Nant Brun, on the other side, is wild and stony. The path descends by a ridge, and on the W. side of ravines below it to *Deux Nants*, and thence to *St. Jean de Belleville*, about 2 hrs. from Moûtiers.]

At St. Jean the powerful mountain engines are attached to the train, as the bit between the town and Modane is the worst on the French side. The valley becomes a mere gorge, and the stream is crossed several times before reaching the open basin of

51 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. **St. Michel Stat.** (2303 ft.).

[Hence the new road to Dauphiné over the *Col du Galibier* falls in (see Rte. 158A). Over the mountains N. is the pass of the *Col des Encombres* to Moûtiers Tarentaise].

The rly. goes up a fine gorge, then crosses the Arc on the iron bridge of La Denise, and twice besides, and has risen about 1100 ft., or on an

average 110 ft. per mile, from St. Michel when it reaches

61 m. **Modane Stat.**, terminus of the Italian rly., with the *Custom House*. The rly. time from Modane is the *heure de Rome*, 47 min. faster than the *heure de Paris*. The village, surrounded by rich pastures, 3514 ft., has a Pop. of 3394. It is half a mile from the stat., from a café opposite which starts the post-carriage to *Lanslebourg* about 2.30 P.M.

[Three passes lead from Modane across the chain separating Savoy from Piedmont, the paths separating about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. from Modane at the very picturesquely-situated shrine of *Notre Dame du Charmaix*, one of the most frequented in the Maurienne, and well worth a stroll from Modane. The shortest and most direct, but rough track, fit only for pedestrians, is by the *Col de Fréjus*, leading in about 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to Bardonnèche. This passes very nearly over the part of the chain which is traversed by the tunnel, the *Pointe de Fréjus* (9659 ft.) to the N., and easily accessible in 1 hr., being immediately over it. Somewhat farther W. is the much easier pass of the *Col de la Roue*, frequently traversed with mules by the country people, and leading in 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to Bardonnèche. Farther still towards the W. is a rather higher and rougher path, but practicable for mules, by the *Col de la Saume*, or de la Vallée Etroite. For travellers going direct to Bardonnèche this has no advantage, but a second very easy pass—probably one of the very lowest which crosses the main chain of the Alps,—the *Echelles de Plampinet* (5873 ft.), leads in 3 hrs. to Briançon in Dauphiné. From the summit of the *Col de la Saume* a mountaineer will easily reach in 2 or 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. the summit of the *Mont Thabor* (10,436 ft.), commanding a magnificent panoramic view of the Western Alps. On the top is a stone pyramid marking one of the stations used 40 years ago in the measurement of an arc of parallel by the Sardinian engineers, and near it a chapel, where

mass is said on the last Sunday in August. The descent may be made to St. Michel by Valmeinier, or to Bardonnèche. N. of Modane are the *Col de Chavière* and *Col d'Aussois* (Rte. 157) to Pralognan in the valley of the Doron, passing to the W. of the *Dent Parrachée* (12,179 ft.).]

From Modane the rly. follows the l. bank of the Arc, passes the gallery of St. Antoine, and then sweeps to the rt. to double back. It enters the lateral valley of Rieu Roux, dives through the Replat tunnel, and returns westward, skirting the hills, to the entrance of the great

### Tunnel through the Alps.

It seems that the first person who suggested the present tunnel was a M. Médail of Bardonnèche, who in 1832 ascertained that from Fourneaux near Modane, to Bardonnèche the distance was shorter than at any other known place of equal height in the Alps. He died in 1850; but the Piedmontese Government adopted his scheme, and, after careful surveys, the work was begun on the N. side in Aug. 1857. The piercing of the mountain was completed on 25th Dec. 1870, after 13 years and 3 months' labour, and the tunnel was opened for traffic in Sept. 1871. The engineers were Signori Grandis, Grattoni, and Sommeiller, all Piedmontese. The bargain between the French and Italian Governments and the Railway Company of Northern Italy was that the company should contribute 20 millions of frs. towards the expenses; that the French Government should pay 19 millions of frs. if the work was completed in 20 years, reckoning from 1862; and that the Italian Government should meet the remainder of the cost. It was, however, further agreed that if the work were finished at an earlier date, France should pay 500,000 frs. more for every year gained upon the 20 years. Now, as the period was shortened by 11 years, France had to pay an additional sum of five and a half millions of frs. If

the completion of the tunnel had been delayed beyond the 20 years, then Italy would have had to pay 500,000 frs. for every year in excess of that period. When the work commenced, it was not possible to say what its duration might be. A mass of very hard quartzite was encountered at one time, which threatened to delay the operations considerably, but luckily it proved to be only 1247 ft. thick. One of the chief difficulties was that, as the tunnel would be very deep below the Alps overhead, no shafts could be sunk, so that the work could be carried on from the ends only. The progress of the tunnel was very slow until improved boring machines had been invented and perfected. These machines were worked, not by steam, but by air compressed by means of water power. On the N. side a cut was made from the river Arc, leading water to work six over-shot water-wheels. Each of these wheels worked two pumps which drove compressed air into a large number of receivers, shaped like long steam boilers. From these the compressed air was carried by an iron pipe up the face of the mountain and into the tunnel. By means of this compressed air acting on pistons, about fifty iron rods on the principle of the jumper-chisel were set to work against the face of the rock. When holes had been bored out by the chisels to a sufficient depth, they were charged with gunpowder, and the machine was withdrawn, and the rock blasted. Workmen then cleared away the rubbish, and the process was repeated. As long as the boring machine was at work there was an ample supply of air, but whilst the rubbish was being cleared away no air came in. To supply air, therefore, a mountain stream with a good head of water was led to near the mouth of the tunnel, where it worked four enormous pistons in as many cylinders, by means of which the foul air was drawn from the tunnel.



The works on the S. side were very similar to those on the N.; and the borings from the two ends met accurately, although starting at opposite sides of the mountain, more than 7 miles apart, and working up different slopes.

The tunnel was made perfectly straight, in order to avoid the risk of the proper direction being lost, and short curved branches to the tunnel were made at each end, to connect with the line as made outside.

The length of the tunnel, with its curved branches, is 14,050 yds., or 8 m. all but 30 yds. The height above the sea of the N. end is 3803 ft.; that of the S. end is 4239 ft. The N. portion of the tunnel is on an incline of 1 in 45, and for a short distance 1 in 34. The S. portion is on an incline in the opposite direction of 1 in 2000. The highest point in the tunnel is 10 ft. above the S. end.

The tunnel is lined with brick or masonry throughout, and has a double line of rails, with a footpath on each side. The cost of the tunnel is put at 3,000,000*l.*, or about 220*l.* a yard. The internal width of the base is 25 ft. 3½ in., its height varies from 24½ ft. to 25½ ft., and the 'gauge' of the rails is 4 ft. 8½ in. The highest point of the *Pointe de Fréjus*, the hill through which it passes, is 9659 ft., and hence the tunnel is more accurately called 'tunnel du Fréjus' than Mont Cenis tunnel, as the pass of the Mont Cenis is 16¾ m. to the E. The great mass of the rocks perforated were calcareous schists<sup>1</sup>.

The passage of the tunnel occupies from the N. 36 min., from the S. 40 min. The carriages are very well lighted; there is no perceptible smoke in the tunnel, and the air is far purer than that on the Metropolitan Railway. The tunnel is dimly lighted with gas

lamps. The line emerges from the tunnel at

69 m. **Bardonnecchia** (*Bardonnèche*) **Stat.** (4305 ft.) in a bleak and dreary valley, where winter and patches of snow are often found after leaving at Modane spring and warmth. About ½ m. off is the miserable village (Pop. 1311) of Bardonnecchia. [Above Bardonnecchia to the N.E. extends the Vallée de Rochemolles, surrounded by the peaks of the Ambin group. The Arc valley may be reached by the *Col de Pelouse*, *Col d'Étiache*, or *Col Sommeiller*, and Exilles by the *Col* and the *Val de Galambre*. To the S.W. the easy pass of the *Col des Echelles de Plampinet* (5873 ft.)—one of the very lowest across the main chain of the Alps—leads over into the Clairée valley in 3 hrs., and so to Briançon.]

The scenery is very wild, and there are 24 tunnels and galleries between this place and Bussoleno; two of them more than a mile long.

The railway runs along the bottom of the valley, hemmed in with high mountains, to

72¼ m. **Beaulard Stat.** The village is on the hill at a short distance on the rt. The name is rather improbably supposed to be derived from the *Belaci*, a tribe which in former times inhabited the Cottian Alps, and whose name is inscribed upon the Roman arch at Susa. Following the Bardonnecchia torrent, which the railway crosses at Savoulx, we enter the valley and pass the torrent of the Dora Riparia, before reaching

76 m. **Oulx Stat.**, a short distance from the village (rt.), which (1882 Inhab.) is one of the largest in the valley of the Dora, along which the diligence road ascends to the Mont Genève and to Briançon (Rte. 161). Hence in 4½ hrs. by the *Col de Bourget*, *Col de Côteplane*, or other easy passes to the Chisone valley, and so to Fénestrelle (Rte. 162). The rly. crosses the Dora by a lattice-bridge, to follow the opposite bank of the torrent as far as

<sup>1</sup> For further details as to this gigantic work, and on the railway emerging from it by the valley of the Dora Riparia as far as Turin, see the *Guide au Tunnel du Mont Cenis*, by A. Covino, Turin, 1871, and Whymper's *Scrambles amongst the Alps*. A series of the rocks pierced by the tunnel is to be seen in the Museum of the Academy of Sciences at Turin.

79 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Salbertrand Stat.** Remarkable *ch.* of the early part of the 16th cent. in the town. The peaks on the l. are those of the group of the Mont Ambin, whilst on the rt. is the *Col de l'Assietta*, over which there is a path to *Fénestrelle*; on the col the Piedmontese drove back the French in a bloody battle on July 19, 1747, in commemoration of which a monument has lately been erected there. It was near Salbertrand that the battle took place on August 24, 1689, between Henri Arnaud, the Vaudois leader (descending with his followers from the *Col de Clapier*), and the Marquis de Larrey, in which the French general was defeated, and after which the Vaudois leader was able to regain his native valleys by way of the *Col de Côteplane* and the *Col du Piz*. [From Salbertrand, Bramans in the Arc valley may be gained by the *Col d'Ambin*, whence almost every peak of the group of that name may be climbed, or Rochemolles above Bardonnèche by the *Col de Galambre*]

At *Salbertrand* the engine is again changed for an engine adapted for the steep descent to Bussoleno.

For the next 10 m. the railway scenery is amongst the most wonderful of the kind in Europe; the line for a great part of the distance being carried along the face of a steep mountain high above the villages, fields, and river.

Soon after leaving *Salbertrand Stat* the line crosses the Dora, and enters a long tunnel. On emerging from this, a glimpse is caught on the left of the village of Salbertrand, with its pasture some 500 ft. below; after this many tunnels are threaded, and the intervals afford but scanty glimpses of the valley.

The view looking down upon the town and singular fort of *Exilles* is very striking. In this part of the valley of the Dora a battle took place in 1747 between the French, who were then attempting to invade Piedmont under the Comte de Belleisle, and the Piedmontese, in

which the French were defeated and their commander lost his life, after a hard-fought action.

86 m. **Chiomonte** (or *Chaumont*) **Stat.** Here the railway is in a more open valley, which it soon leaves and again comes out upon the face of the mountain. The old Mont Genève road, the zigzags of which look like the coils of a rope resting on the slope, is crossed. The town of Susa is seen in the valley some 3 m. off, with the fine peak of the *Roche Melon* above it.

93 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Meana Stat.**, about 2 m. from Susa. The line continues to descend rapidly, until the level valley of the Dora Riparia is crossed to

94 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Bussoleno Stat.** *Junction* for Susa. The walled town, 3740 Inhab., is on the rt. bank of the Dora. Some interesting rambles may be made from here: 1. To the old castle of *Bruzolo*, about 1 hr. on foot. 2. To Valle di Viù, by the *Col de la Croix de Fer*; ascent about 5 hrs., descent 3 hrs. From Bussoleno it is 28 m. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.) to Turin (see below).

### Pass of the Mont Cenis.

The Mont Cenis is one of the historical passes of the Alps. Known from the 4th cent., though not mentioned by name till 731, it has been passed by many sovereigns and armies from Pippin in 754, and Charles the Great in 773 to Napoleon. Louis le Débonnaire founded the Hospice. At the end of the 17th cent. the track was (it is said) enlarged, so as to be made passable for light carriages.

The present carriage-road was constructed by the Chevalier Fabroni, under the orders of Napoleon, at a cost of 300,000*l.*, and was commenced in 1803 and finished in 1810. It is one of the safest and most practicable over the Alps during the winter, but no diligences run over it, and a single post carriage each day plies between Modane and Lanslebourg. The valley of the Arc above St. Jean de Maurienne is on a grand



scale, with wild and romantic scenery at *Fort de l'Esseillon* on the ascent from Modane. On the pass there is a fine view from the 17th Refuge, and beautiful prospects on the descent into Italy.

[The **Mont Cenis**, or *Fell Railway*, opened 1868, was an experimental line, constructed (at a cost of 8000*l.* per mile) by Mr. Fell on a principle patented some 40 yrs. ago by Mr. Vignolles and Mr. Ericsson, and first tried on the Cromford and High Peak line in England. The chief features of this plan were horizontal wheels which, when the break is applied, grasp a *central rail*, and thus enable trains to traverse curves of 135 ft. radius, and to ascend and descend with safety gradients of 1 in 15, and even 1 in 12. This could not be done by an ordinary locomotive, and the attempt proved successful, except in a pecuniary point of view.

From Lanslebourg, where the pass properly begins, the line climbed on the outer edge of Napoleon's road in 6 sweeping zigzags, with a gradient of 1 in 15 to 1 in 12½, to the top, a distance of 6½ m. and a height of 2240 ft. (or 4558 ft. above St. Michel). On the side of Italy it descended 5221 ft. to Susa, curling in its course like a serpent. The maximum speed here allowed was 15 m. per hr., but with the central-rail breaks moderately applied, the train ran easily down the steep and circuitous incline. The carriages were on the American model, with entrance behind and seats arranged in the omnibus fashion, and each had a guard and two breaks. The Fell railway was constructed entirely by English engineers and with English capital. For 30 m. it had the central rail, and the gauge was narrower than on the ordinary narrow-gauge lines in England and France. The drivers were English. In 1871, on the completion of the tunnel, the Fell railway was, according to contract, destroyed.]

From Modane the road ascends

high above the Arc, where a grand gorge serves as a natural and tremendous fosse to *Fort de l'Esseillon*, built on the opposite height, and commanding, with its many-mouthed batteries, the passage towards Italy. This fort presents a magnificent appearance. Above it is the village of **Aussois**, above which towers the *Dent Parrachée* (12,179 ft.), easily accessible in 7 or 8 hrs., and commanding a most extensive view of the Alps and the plains of Italy. A light bridge spanning the gorge is a striking object: it is called the *Pont du Diable*. Fine waterfall of St. Benoît (262 ft. high), near the village of **Avrieux** where Charles the Bald is said to have probably died of poison in 877. The road passes

6¾ m. **Le Verney**, chief hamlet of the commune of *Bramans*, where Horace Walpole lost his lap-dog, which was carried off by a wolf pouncing down upon it from the forest.

[Rt. to Susa, by the *Col de Clapiet* (Rte. 155), the first 2 hrs. by char-road, up the l. bank of the torrent St. Pierre to **Planais**, is whence starts the path l. to the *Little Mt. Cenis*. Through different glens of the same valley the *Col d'Ambin* leads to Salbertrand, and the *Col Sommeiller* and *Col d'Etache* to Rochemolles, Planais being the starting-point in each case.]

11¼ m. **Thermignon**. [N. a path over the *Plan du Loup* to Entre deux Eaux, and thence N.W. by the *Col de la Vanoise* (Rte. 157) to Pralognan, or by the *Col de la Leisse* to Tignes.] On leaving Thermignon the road is carried up a very steep ascent by two great zigzags.

16¼ m. **Lanslebourg** a poor village at the foot of the ascent of Mont Cenis (4,587 ft. above the sea). French Custom-house here, and large barracks. Travellers should bear in mind that it is now quite impossible to obtain a char or carriage at Lanslebourg, unless one has been sent up from Modane in consequence of a

telegram. There is one daily post-carriage, starting about 10 A.M., in correspondence with the mid-day train at Modane. (For the upper valley of the Arc, see Rte. 156.) At the end of the village the road crosses the Arc, and ascends the mountain by 6 easy and well-constructed zigzags, which the Fell rly. followed. In winter, when deep snow covered the inequalities of the mountain, travellers descended in a sledge to Lanslebourg in 10 min.! Perpendicular descent 1968 ft. Pedestrians can take a short cut W. of the zigzags, which rejoins the high-road at the edge of the ascent near Refuge No. 20.

The highest point of the pass (6½ m. from Lanslebourg), which forms the frontier between France and Italy, is 6861 ft. above the sea; thence the road descends to the great plain of Mont Ceniz, passing near the margin of a lake, generally frozen during 6 months of the year: it is famed for its delicious trout: the fishery belongs to the Hospice.

8 m. **Les Tavernettes**. (From this point the ascent of the *Little Mont Ceniz* (Rte. 155) commences.)

About a mile beyond is the **Hospice**. The existing edifice, built by Napoleon, is now occupied, half by gendarmes and soldiers, half by two priests commissioned by the bishop of St. Jean de Maurienne, who exercise gratuitous hospitality towards poor travellers. The house contains 2 or 3 bedrooms for guests of the higher class. [Hence the summit of the *Roche Melon* (see below) can be attained by a rough and fatiguing climb. A finer ascent is that of the *Pointe de Ronce* (11,871 ft.), whence the descent may be made to Bessans or to Lanslebourg.] Near the Hospice is a loopholed wall, for the defence of the pass, and on the plateau of the pass itself the Italians have lately constructed several extensive forts. For 2 m. farther the road is nearly level to

11½ m. **La Grande Croix**, a

wretched *Inn* at the lower extremity of the plain; here the descent begins.

16¾ m. **Molaretto**, the first Italian hamlet. A footpath descends from the high-road a little below *Les Tavernettes*, much shortening the distance for pedestrians. From some of the turns beyond this place fine views of the valley of the Dora are obtained. A gallery, built under a torrent, is passed, but is used only when the main road is dangerous or destroyed. The descent of the road is now continuous by long zigzags to Susa.

19¾ m. **Giaglione** or *Jaillon*.

23 m. **Susa** (1640 ft.).

This ancient city, the *Segusium* of the Romans, numbering 4418 Inhab., is the seat of a bishopric. It is picturesque in its mediæval towers and gates, and is surrounded with lovely scenery. The Dora Susina runs by the side of the town.

The **Arch** or **City Gate**, erected by Marcus Julius Cottius, the son of King Donnus, about B.C. 8, in honour of Augustus, is on a road leading up from the S.W. of the Cathedral to the Old Castle outside the town, and is supposed to have stood on the Roman road which crossed Mont Genève. This chieftain of the Alpine tribes, having submitted to the Roman authority, records his dignity under the humbler title of Prefect. The arch is of white marble. It is somewhat remarkable that the columns are set on a pedestal which raises them considerably above the pilasters of the arch. The inscription gives the names of 14 mountain clans, which are of extreme importance for the history of this part of the Alps, and really forms its starting-point. It commences with the words IMP. CAESARI AUGUSTO DIVI F. PONTIFICI MAXIMO TRIBUNIC. POTESTATE XV. IMP. XIII. The basso-relievi represent the sacrifices (*Suovetaurilia*) and other ceremonies by which the treaty was ratified and concluded.



The order is Corinthian, in a good style for a provincial town. The bas-reliefs on the lesser sides have been destroyed.

There are two other arches of Roman construction not far from the principal one.

The **Cathedral of St. Justus** is of the 11th cent., and has a lofty campanile, in the Lombard style. The central arches and massy piers of the nave belong to a more ancient fabric; the rest is in a simple Gothic style. In the Chapel of the Virgin is a gilded statue in wood, of the 12th cent., of Adelaide, Marchioness of Turin (d. 1091), the princess through whom the House of Savoy acquired the dominions which became the origin of its power in Italy. This celebrated lady was thrice married, her third husband being Otho, son of Humbert I., Count of Maurienne. In the right transept is a triptych, with the figure of an English bishop, Hugh Scott of Lincoln (?). In one of the chapels is a curious mediæval group in bronze of our Lady of Roccia Melone with St. George and Bonifacio d'Asti (see below). The font, hollowed out of a single block of green Susa marble, is a work of the 11th cent., with an ambiguous inscription. In the sacristy is a large silver cross, said to have been given by Charlemagne.

Ancient towers, gateways, and Gothic porticoes add to the picturesque effect of the town.

Above Susa are the extensive ruins of the fort of **La Brunetta**, once considered the key of the valley, and which, with the fortresses of Exilles and Fénestrelle, formed the line of defences of Piedmont on the side of France. It was destroyed by the French in 1796, in virtue of a treaty with Sardinia. The road over Mont Cenis passes near the ruins.

[The **Rochemelon**, or *Monte di Roccia Melone* (*Arx Romulea*) (11,605 ft.), can be ascended from Susa in 7 to 8 hrs. This peak was formerly believed to be one of the highest in

the Alps, and Coryat, an Elizabethan traveller, was told it was 14 m. high! Upon the summit is a chapel, founded, in 1358, by **Bonifacio Roero d'Asti**, who, having been taken prisoner by the Mahometans, made a vow that, if set free, he would erect an oratory here in honour of the Virgin. He placed in the chapel the statue of our Lady (now in the Cathedral Ch. of Susa), which is carried annually in procession to this chapel on the 5th of August, the festival of Notre Dame de la Neige. The ascent is accomplished without difficulty, and a mule mounts as far as the Casa d'Asti. There is a rude path to the summit. From Susa it is 5½ hrs. to the *Casa d'Asti* (9298 ft.), whence the top will be reached in 2 hrs. Here there is the wooden chapel (full of ex-votos), a marble tablet recording the ascent made in 1659 by Charles Emanuel II., and a huge bust of Victor Emanuel II. The Grande Croix on the plateau of Mont Cenis, may be reached from the top of Rochemelon. There is another track from the Mont Cenis Hospice. The summit can also be reached from the side of Savoy, starting from Besans in the valley of the Arc (Rte. 156). The ascent thence takes 6 or 7 hrs., and lies in part over glaciers, but is annually made by many pilgrims on August 5th.

The view from the Rochemelon is very fine.]

3 m. above Susa, upon the old and now almost abandoned road to the Hospice on the W. side of the river, are the remains of the Abbey of **Novalesa**, founded by Abbo, a noble of Susa, about the year 726. It was ruined by Saracens from Fraxinetum, in Provence, in 906, and never recovered from this blow. The *ch.* was rebuilt in 1712, and since the suppression of the abbey in 1855, its buildings have been used as a place for a summer sojourn. It was probably these Benedictine monks, who were originally charged with the care of the Hospice on the Mont

Cenis (which devolved on them till 1855), and they have left behind them a precious *Chronicle*, coming down to 1048.

Just outside of Susa, the view, looking back upon the town, in which the Roman arch is conspicuous, is very beautiful. It is equally so on looking down the long valley. At the farthest extremity of this valley, and 2000 ft. above it, a lofty rock stands out, upon the summit of which may be descried the tower of the Abbey ch. of **San Michele della Chiusas** (*Cluse*) (see HANDBOOK FOR NORTH ITALY), founded in A.D. 999, of which the Prieuré in the valley of Chamonix, and that at La Chambre, were dependencies. The Roman road over the Alps, which was constructed by Pompey and improved when Cottius submitted to Augustus, passed up this valley, and, turning to the S.W. at Susa, along the valley of the Dora, crossed by the pass of **Mt. Genève**. This became the road most frequented by the Romans between Italy and Cisalpine Gaul (Rte. 161).

At **Foresto**, W. of Bussoleno, are quarries of the serpentine, called *Verde di Susa*, very much like the verd' antique, but with less durability. Near at hand is a great cavern, known as the *Orrido di Foresto*, into which the stream flowing from the glaciers of Roccia Melone is precipitated. There is another fine cave not far distant, called the *Orrido di Chianoc*.

E. of Bussoleno is **San Giorio**, displaying its array of walls and towers, and an ancient fortress ascending the hill.

**Bussoleno Junct.** is  $4\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Susa.

The rest of the rte. to Turin is described in the HANDBOOK FOR NORTH ITALY.

Trains from Bussoleno to Turin several times a day, taking  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to perform the journey of 28 m.

**Turin Terminus.**

Alpine travellers will be inter-

ested by the *Museo Alpino* on the Monte dei Cappuccini. An ascent of the *Superga* (by funicular rly. 55 min.), should not be omitted in clear weather.

For **Turin** see the HANDBOOK FOR NORTH ITALY.

## ROUTE 155.

BRAMANS TO SUSAL, BY

A. THE PETIT MONT CENIS.

B. THE COL DE CLAPIER.

A. The Petit Mont Cenis.

The **Petit Mont Cenis** is a little-used path leading from a glen which opens at Bramans to the Hospice on the Mont Cenis in about 5 hrs. It is more laborious than the Mont Cenis, less direct than the Col de Clapier, and its chief interest is due to its being one of the passes which have been put forward as the rte. of Hannibal's passage. A summary of the arguments advanced to show that this was the pass crossed by the Carthaginian army will be found in Ball's *Alpine Guide* (Sec. 7, Rte. 3).

For the fullest and most recent discussion of the whole question in this country, see Mr. D. Freshfield's papers in the *Alpine Journal*, Nos. 81 and 93.

As far as *Planais* (2 hrs.) the track is a rough char-road. The way to Planais passes near the ruined ch. of *St. Pierre d'Estravache*, which is said to be of hoary antiquity, while the great white cliff on the opposite side of the glen has been identified with the 'white rock' mentioned by Polybius. A steep path leads in 2 hrs. more to the col (7221 ft.). Hence a descent of 1 hr. by a pleasant path over pastures leads to the lake on the Mont Cenis.

The slopes around the plain of the Mont Cenis have some of the best grass in the Alps, and a particularly rich flora; the pastures leading to the Little Mont Cenis are of great extent.



### B. Col de Clairée, or Col de Clapier.

A steep ascent leads from Planais to the Combe d'Ambin, as the upper glen is called. Above it rises one of the finest peaks in this part of the Alps, the *Mont* or *Roche d'Ambin* (11,093 ft.); on its summit was one of the stations used in the triangulation and measure of an arc of the meridian across the great chain. It can be reached from all sides, from Savine in 3½ hrs., also from the Col d'Ambin to the S.W., and from the Agnello glen to the E.

[To reach this valley from the col of the Little Mont Cenis it is necessary to mount directly up some rocks, and continue for a short time on that side of the mountain; the path afterwards descends among the huge stones which strew this sterile valley; and, keeping always on the rt. side of the ravine below, which forms the Combe d'Ambin, and through which a stream, like a thread of silver, flows, the path ascends by a rugged and broken course to the chalets of Savine, 1 hr. from the Little Mont Cenis. Here there is a little spot of meadow land and some scanty herbage.

On the l., a rugged path leads across from the posthouse on the Cenis by some little lakes, the *Lacs Giaset*, to this valley, above the chalets of Savine: it is rather shorter, but more fatiguing, than that by the Little Mont Cenis. Wolves are not uncommon in the forest above Bramans, lower down the valley, and are probably the successors of those ravenous rascals which gobbled up Walpole's poor little dog Toby, as his master passed with the poet Gray at the foot of this forest on his way into Italy.]

Above the meadows of Savine the path rises amidst rocks and stones, and in 1 hr. reaches a little lake in an elevated plain, in which all seems lone and desolate. The black precipices of the mountain of *Ciusalet* on the l. and those of the remarkable rock needles of the *Trois Dents d'Ambin*

or *Aiguilles de Savine* (11,096 ft.), (all accessible from this side in 2 hrs. or so) on the rt., bound its sides: glaciers from the Ambin chain sweep down to the lake, and small cataracts, from the melting of the ice, mark the dark cliffs with wavy lines of light. Amidst this apparent sterility thousands of gentianellas, *Ranunculus glacialis*, violets of the richest fragrance, and other Alpine flowers, grow and bloom unseen, in every swampy spot, and between the stones with which the plain and col are covered.

This lake is filled by the melting of the glaciers of the Ambin chain. It is called the *Lac Noir* or *Lac de Savine*, and is about 1 m. long. At its upper extremity is a low ridge, 141 ft. above the level of the lake, from which it is but a few minutes' walk. This is a crest of the great chain, the *Col de Clairée*, also called *Col de Clapier* (8173 ft.) (5 hrs. from Bramans). [From the col a track leads rt., by a wild and difficult course, over the *Col de Touilles* (near which is a curious water-course, dug out 1526-33 by a single man, Colombano Roman), to Salbertrand, in the Dora valley.]

The rte. by the Col de Clapier to Susa lies on the l.: the descent is down a steep and rocky hollow, which terminates at the crossing of a bright stream near a pasturage. This spot is a delicious place of rest. At the first moment it is not easy to see how a farther descent is to be effected. The traveller stands upon a platform, seemingly surrounded by precipitous rocks. Though long and extremely steep, the descent will present no real difficulty to a practised cragsman; but none other should attempt it without a guide. In looking back when the head of the *Val de Clairée* has been reached, it is not easy to trace the line of descent over rocks, which in places seem quite perpendicular. It is 3 hrs.' walk from the col to **Giaglione** (3¼ m. from Susa), a stat. on the Mont Cenis rly. (Rte. 154). It is

possible to follow the water-course from the point where it diverges from the Clairée, along the face of the precipice, and join the road of the Mont Cenis 1 hr. above Susa, thereby save some time. A steady head is necessary.

Two more direct passes lead from Bramans to near Exilles: the *Col d'Agnel*, to the S.E. of the Roche d'Ambin (11,093 ft., easily accessible from N.E. or S.W.), and the *Col d'Ambin*, still further to W. The track leaves that above described at Planais, and passes over glaciers. (Bramans to Exilles in 9 hrs.)

In August, 1689, the Vaudois, under their pastor and captain, Henri Arnaud, returned to their valleys, from which they had been expelled in 1686. They wandered by a course difficult to trace, which may be briefly described as follows. On August 16 they crossed the Lake of Geneva to Savoy, and thence proceeded by St. Jeoire, Cluses, Sallanches, Mégève, the Col de Véry, the Col de la Fenêtre, and the Col du Bonhomme, whence they descended into the Tarentaise, and traversed the Col d'Iseran to the valley of the Arc; thence by the Mont Cenis, the Little Mont Cenis, and the Col de Clapier, into the valley of the Clairée. Here they encountered the troops of the Duke of Savoy, who prevented their entry into the valley of Exilles, and they were compelled to return and cross the Col de Touilles, from which the southern branch of the Clairée flows. Thence they traversed the Col de Côteplane to the Chisone valley, and finally, on August 26, regained their homes in the valley of St. Martin, by the Col du Piz. It has been pointed out in former parts of this work that the Duke of Savoy blocked their retreat by the Col de Fenêtre and St. Théodule (both leading into the Val d'Aosta), by constructing fortifications on each of these last-named passes (Rtes. 128 and 136). The account of their sufferings, before they cleared these

mountain passes, and so signally defeated their enemies at the bridge of Salbertrand, forms the subject of an interesting narrative which was written by Henri Arnaud himself, their colonel and pastor, and published in 1710<sup>1</sup>.

## ROUTE 156.

### CHAMBÉRY TO LANSLEBOURG, BY THE TARENTEISE — COL D'ISERAN.

Eng. m.

	<b>Chambéry</b>	
8 $\frac{3}{4}$	. Montmélian . . . . .	} rail
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	. St. Pierre d'Albigny . . . . .	
30 $\frac{1}{2}$	. Albertville . . . . .	
47 $\frac{1}{4}$	. Moutiers Tarentaise . . . . .	
56	. Aime . . . . .	} road
63 $\frac{1}{2}$	. Bourg St. Maurice . . . . .	
Hrs. walking.		
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	. Ste. Foy . . . . .	
$\frac{3}{4}$	. La Thuile de Ste. Foy . . . . .	} road
2	. Brévières . . . . .	
$\frac{3}{4}$	. Tignes . . . . .	
1 $\frac{1}{4}$	. Val d'Isère . . . . .	
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	. Col d'Iseran . . . . .	} mule path
2	. Bonneval . . . . .	
1 $\frac{1}{4}$	. Bessans . . . . .	
2 $\frac{3}{4}$	. Lanslebourg . . . . .	

Rly. from Chambéry to St. Pierre d'Albigny Stat. (Rte. 154), whence branch line to Albertville.

The branch line goes up the Isère valley through extensive marshes. The mountains on each side slope upwards gradually, so as to afford views of the higher villages and pastures, and occasionally of the summits. To the rt. is seen the *Château of Ste. Hélène des Millières*.

<sup>1</sup> It was translated by the late Hugh Dyke Acland under the title of *The Glorious Recovery by the Vaudois of their Valleys*, London, Murray, 1827. For the *Glorieuse Rentrée* consult particularly the *Bulletin du Bicentenaire de la Glorieuse Rentrée* (Turin, 1889) Arnaud's work has been several times reprinted of late—by Attinger at Neuchâtel (1845), by Fick at Geneva (1879, the prettiest and most handy edition), and by Lantaret at Pignerol (1880). For works on the Vaudois in general see Rte. 163.



30½ m. **Albertville**. One of the best starting-places for Chamonix by the beautiful road through the Combe de Savoie or Arly valley (Rte. 150). [E. lies, 11¼ m. **Beaufort**, with passes to the path of the Col du Bonhomme and valley of the Isère (Rte. 150).]

The rly. is being pushed on from Albertville towards Moûtiers (and perhaps the Little St. Bernard). At present there are three diligences a day each way, starting from the station and arriving in correspondence with the trains. Time from Albertville to Moûtiers rather over 3 hrs.

Here our rte. turns sharp to the S., following the course of the Isère, and entering the lovely district of the *Tarentaise*. The road lies on the rt. bank, through a succession of beautiful scenes. The lower ranges of the mountains are wooded, the valley narrow, retired, and pastoral. The ruins of *Castles* are often seen on rocky heights with rich backgrounds of forest trees; and the traveller passes through pleasant shades overhung by walnut or chestnut trees.

Immediately after leaving Albertville the river Arly is crossed, and the old town of **Conflans** (Rte. 150 A) skirted at the foot of the hill. The next village is **La Bâthie** (*Oblimum*), with a ruined castle, and pass to the l. to Beaufort; and then **Cevins**, about half-way between Albertville and Moûtiers. About 4 m. farther, near the hamlet of **Petit Cœur** (celebrated among geologists for the mixture of fossils of the coal-measures and lias), there is a fine cataract, which dashes down amidst immense rocks. A path on the l. leads to Beaufort by the *Col de la Louze* (Rte. 150 A). About 2 m. farther the valley opens into a rich little plain, where the pretty village of **Aigueblanche** is situated. Here the road rises for some distance, in order to avoid a gorge of the Isère, and then descends again to 67¼ m. **Moûtiers Tarentaise**,

situated at the confluence of the Isère and the Doron, at a height of 1575 ft. It is much shut in and oppressively hot in summer (1967 Inhab.). This, the capital of the *Tarentaise* before its annexation to France in 1860, derives its present name from an old monastery, which was built in the 5th cent. at a little distance from the ancient *Darentasia*. The history of its church is perfect from its first archbishop in A.D. 420 to its last in 1793, a period of 1373 years, the see being revived as a simple bishopric in 1825. The prelates enjoyed great temporal privileges, till they lost them to the house of Savoy about 1062. The city now contains a *hospital* for the poor, founded in the 10th cent., and an *Ecole des Mines*, in which the productions of the mines of Peisey are examined. The *Cathedral* is Romanesque, with an ancient crypt and a 15th cent. porch, but is not remarkable except for some 12th cent. church plate and ornaments in the sacristy.

From Moûtiers the ascent of the *Mont Jouvet* (8409 ft.), may be made by a mule-path in 5 hrs. The view is very fine. The French Alpine Club has recently built a Club hut on the summit.

To the S. of Moûtiers is the opening of a network of valleys which run into the recesses of the mountains between the valleys of the Arc and Isère—to the *Grand Casse*, *Grande Motte*, and *Dent Parrachée*—and by several passes to the Mt. Cenis road (Rtes. 154, 157), and to the Val de Tignes (Rte. 157). **Brides les Bains**, with excellent *Inns*, is 4 m. up the valley of the Doron (see Rte. 157).

The road, leaving the little basin of Moûtiers, goes through some thoroughly pastoral scenery, and then a gorge which opens at the village of **St. Marcel**. The narrowing valley is highly picturesque, but the inhabitants present the filthy and decrepit appearance which is too common in these regions. The road now rises on the rt. bank, and is carried over a neck of rock at a

great height above the torrent. The view down and back upon St. Marcel is very fine.

The valley opens above this defile ; and below the road, is seen the village of **Centron**, which, according to the best and most recent authorities, has nothing whatever to do with the ancient inhabitants of the district, the Ceutrones.

56 m. **Aime** (*Axuma*), one of the chief towns of the Ceutrones, which, according to inscriptions found here, was called *Forum Claudii* before the name of *Axuma* was given to it. On a hill above it are remains of Roman fortifications : and some round towers of great antiquity, both in the town and on the site of the fort, are still standing, the masonry having been strong enough to hold together through so many ages. The building sometimes called a temple of Diana is in reality the Romanesque *Ch. of St. Martin*, constructed out of old materials ; it contains the foundations of a Roman building, an 11th cent. crypt, and 12th cent. frescoes. The village was overwhelmed by a landslip in the 13th cent., and it is not improbable that the present crypt was previously on the level of the ground. Below St. Martin's are the remains of a castle, which, though poor and barbarous enough, was the residence of a powerful family. It is related that a member of this family, being defeated in a lawsuit, requested time to produce further evidence in his favour. Soon afterwards he caught one of the judges, and sent his head to the others, as the further evidence. [3 hrs. distant on the mountains to the S., are the lead mines of **Macot**. N. to Beaufort by the *Col du Cormet*, Rte. 150 A.]

The valley above Aime, though fine, is not so beautiful as below. The vine grows as far as **Bellentre**, which is nearly opposite to the village of Landry, and valley of Peisey, leading to the mines of **Peisey**, which, with those of

Macot, are the most celebrated in Savoy. They are situated at the foot of the glaciers of *Mont Pourri*. 4265 ft. above the sea : the ore, a fine-grained sulphuret of lead, contains 60 ounces of silver per ton. About 1785 these mines yielded annually some 4000 marks of silver, and 40,000 quintals of lead. The production gradually fell off, and they were abandoned in 1862.

As the valley is ascended, the pass of the Little St. Bernard (Rte. 149) opens to the observer a more obvious course than that of the road up the Isère, which turns again from Bourg to the E. and S.S.E. under the great chain, and continues in that direction to its source.

63½ m. **Bourg St. Maurice** (2658 ft.) (Rte. 149).

[From this point the traveller may start for the ascent of

*Mont Pourri*, sometimes called *Mont Thuria* and *Chaffe Quarre*, the second in height (*Grande Casse* first), and one of the most beautiful, of the Tarentaise peaks. Its steep sides, covered with dense forest below and with ice above, are well seen from the *Col du Bonhomme* and the *Val de Bellaval*. It can be best climbed from the W. by various *rtes.* from the *Val Peisey*. The more direct *rtes.* by the N. and S. *arêtes* present considerable difficulties. It extends some 8 m. N. and S., and has on that line 3 peaks, of which the S. is opposite *Brévières* ; the central and highest (12,428 ft.), about 2 m. farther N. The latter was first ascended, 1861, by the guide *Michel Croz* (lost on the *Matterhorn*) by himself, from *Entre deux Nants*, on the W. side.

From *Peisey*, about 3 hrs. from *Bourg St. Maurice*, a traveller ascends E. 2½ hrs., to the chalets of *Entre deux Nants* (6840 ft.) where he can pass the night. The ascent continues to some small lakes, with noble view of *Mt. Blanc* ; then rt. (or S.) up steep *débris* to the top of the ridge, which offers a pass to *Ste. Foy*, *Col du Pourri* or *Grand Col* (9636



ft.). Thence S. by glacier and nevé, circling at last round a snow-basin (whence a direct descent can be effected to the chalets of *La Sevo-lière*, easily accessible in 1 hr. from Entre deux Nants, this being by far the shortest and best route up the peak, about 5 or 6 hrs. from Entre deux Nants) to the S.W. spur and final peak. *Pourri* signifies *rotten*, an appropriate name, as the quartzite crumbles beneath the feet. There are passes S.S.W., the *Col de Frette* (6 hrs.) and *Col du Plansery* (circuitous); or, cross over the summit of *Aig. du Midi de Peisey* (11,227 ft., a marvellous view); these 3 ways all leading from Val Peisey to the Val de Prémou.]

There is now a good char-road from Bourg St. Maurice to Fornet, at the head of the Isère valley, and it is being pushed over the Col d'Iseran (on which there is a good mule-path), the char-road beginning again at Bonneval on the other side of the pass.

It takes one day to go from Bourg to Val d'Isère, and another across the Col d'Iseran to Lanslebourg at the foot of the Mont Cenis. The whole, however, may be accomplished in one very long day. The scenery of the Val de Tignes is superb, but hitherto the bad accommodation has interfered with its enjoyment. The *Inns* in the higher parts of the valley are now yearly improving, and the encouragement given to the inhabitants by the activity of the French Alpine Club, and the increased number of travellers, ought to ensure their continued progress.

A little beyond the bridge over the Recluse and the village of *Sées*, the road leaves the rte. of the Little St. Bernard, and descends through meadows and woods into the Val de Tignes. The approach to Ste. Foy is beautiful. Rt. and l., on opposite sides of a ravine, are the church towers of Villaroger and Ste. Foy, and high above them the snows of the Pourri. Zigzags for 20 min., passing a water-fall in a lateral chasm, lead to

2½ hrs. **Ste. Foy**, with a large ch. and mairie, a most picturesque and charmingly situated village, with a near view of Mt. Pourri. [E. by the *Col du Mont* or *Col de la Sachère* to the Val Grisanche (Rte. 148).] Hence in ¼ hr. by a winding road amongst fruit and walnut trees to a road-side chapel, where the scenery becomes delightfully Alpine, the road mounting among rocks and pines on the edge of a gorge.

½ hr. **La Thuile de Ste. Foy**. [From La Thuile, or Ste. Foy, an excursion may be made to the *Croix de Feuillette* or *de la Foglietta* (9246 ft.), one of the minor peaks of the *Ormelune*, the highest point in the range between the Col du Mont and Col Vaudet. It commands a magnificent view of the chain of Mont Blanc and of a great portion of the Savoy Alps. It is possible on the same day to cross the *Col Vaudet*, or *Col du Clou* (9305 ft.), a pass communicating with the head of the Val Grisanche (Rte. 148). The scenery towards the summit is wild and striking, but there is no extensive view. The path into the Val Grisanche lies over steep slopes of snow and débris and bends far to the rt. nearly to the Vaudet chalets.] ¼ hr. beyond La Thuile the road enters the forest to emerge from it in another ¼ hr., on one of the most lovely scenes of the valley, an irregular opening among the mountains, full of green knolls, with the chalets of *Rey*, and around them the forest, through which a long cataract rushes down. An ascent of 20 min. leads to a fine point of view of the Glacier de la Gurre, descending from Mt. Pourri. High up on a terrace below it are the church and hamlet of **La Gurre**, which are said to have been more than once destroyed by a fall of ice, but the village is apparently in a position of safety on a hill. Down a precipice of black rocks the streams from the glacier shoot in long cascades. In another ½ hr. the road crosses the furious waterfall of the **Nant Cruet**, dash-

ing down a lateral cleft from a glacier of the Sassièrè over which the glacier pass of the *Col du Fond* leads to the Val Grisanche; and here the opposite mountain side is scored by white falls. The valley now opens, and on reaching a brow the traveller sees before him the basin of Brévières, and in the background the heights at the end of the valley.

2 hrs. **Brévières.** Brévières is a miserable village, but in the midst of charming scenery. The river glides gently past it, and is full of trout; on the mountains are ptarmigan and blackcock. [From the **Marais Chalets**, some height to the S.W., Mr. Mathews and Mr. Jacob in 1861 ascended the S. point of Mt. Pourri (called *Dôme de la Sèche*, 11,847 ft.). The chalets (which could be taken on the way between Brévières and Tignes, and are well worth a visit) command a marvellous view of the chain of Mt. Blanc from the Bonhomme to the Géant. In the same direction the *Col de la Sachette* leads to the head of Val Peisey.] Opposite the inn the old path to Tignes crosses the Isère, and ascends to a wild but beautiful forest of larch, spruce, and Arolla pines, rising almost precipitously from a deep ravine. On the other side the rocks of marble have been blasted to form the carriage-road. This defile opens on the grassy basin (about 1 m. long) of

( $\frac{3}{4}$  hr.) **Tignes.** Some height to the rt. a copious stream welling out from the mountain side rushes tumultuously down the rocks; to the l. a cluster of cascades descends from the Lac de la Sassièrè. The valley here expands considerably and is rich in pastures, and its inhabitants, who are robust and independent, are great breeders of mules and cattle. The splendid rock pinnacle which rises so boldly to the S.E. of the village is in reality the W. end (9246 ft.) of the *Rochers de Franchet* ridge, and is accessible by its S. and S.E. faces by a rough climb of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

from *Val d'Isère*. (If taken from Tignes the return may be made by the Col du Dôme to the E., and the Lac de la Sassièrè.) Tignes is most beautifully situated, amidst meadows, dominated by the *Mont Pourri*, and at the foot of the

*Aiguille de la Sassièrè* (12,323 ft.). The summit commands a magnificent view of the Western Alps. The ascent is free from all difficulty, and strongly recommended (6 hrs. from Tignes). It can also be climbed from the Vaudet chalets at the head of Val Grisanche.

Numerous high passes diverge from Tignes—to the Val Grisanche *Col de la Sassièrè*, and *Col du Fond* (Rte. 148)—to the Val de Rhêmes, the *Col de la Goletta* (Rte. 147A)—to the Val de Locana, *Col de la Galise* (Rte. 147)—to the Maurienne, *Col d'Iseran*, *Col de la Rocheure* and *Col de la Leisse*—to the valley of the Doron and Moutiers, *Col du Palet*—to Val Peisey, *Col de la Sachette*, and *Col de la Tourne*. **Excursions** may be made to the *Lac de Tignes*, 1 hr. W., famed for its trout, clear as crystal, and with beautiful views of the Grande Motte and Sassièrè; to the *Lac de la Sassièrè* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.), and above all to the *Marais chalets* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.).

[The ascent to the *Col de la Leisse* is by bridge-road to the *Lac de Tignes*. From chalets, at the head of this lake, a track mounts S. of W. to the *Col du Palet*, leading to Val de Prémou (see Rte. 157). Another faintly-marked path enters a gorge to the l. (on the descent this side, be careful to keep far to the rt., and not down the tempting looking glen to the l.), and ascends due S. to the wild nearly level tract of débris which forms the *Col de la Leisse* (9121 ft.). Chamois are here frequently seen. (The col can be reached from *Val d'Isère* in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., by way of the prettily situated *Thouvière chalets*, the Grand Pra, and the *Col de Fresse*, whence a traverse leads to the col; or from *Val d'Isère* a cattle track can be followed from the *Thouvière chalets* to the Lac de Tignes, where the



usual rte. is rejoined). The descent lies through a glen, between slopes of *débris*, over which to the N. rises the magnificent peak of the *Grande Motte* (12,018 ft.), which can be reached without difficulty from the col ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. up, 40 min. down). There is no path, but it is better to keep first to the rt. side, then to cross one of the snow-bridges which subsist through the summer, returning again to the northern side (though out of the direct course), if the traveller seek rest and refreshment at *Entre-deux-Eaux*, 6 hrs. from Tignes, under the *Grande Casse*. Thence the track to Lanslebourg lies over the Plan du Loup, and to Pralognan over the Col de la Vanoise (Rte. 157). A guide is required for this rte.]

Beyond Tignes the path to the Col d'Iseran enters another of those ravines, which in this valley so singularly alternate with the little plains. This separates the basin of Tignes from that of Val d'Isère. The forest trees are here stunted, the rocks denuded, and the whole passage between the villages is unmatched for savage wildness, the new char-road being for some time carved out in the side of the mountain above the rt. bank of the Isère, to which it gradually descends. To the l., at the entrance, copper has been found, and on the path will be noticed many beautiful marbles, of which specimens have been sent to Paris. Where the gorge begins to open, a bridge crosses the torrent opposite precipices, on which the peasants believe, at this day, a dragon lives, and say he is the father of snakes found dead under the rocks. In another 10 min. the traveller finds himself in the plain of Val d'Isère, where barley is raised, and irrigation so well managed, that there is an appearance of luxuriant vegetation. Meadows are traversed to

$1\frac{1}{4}$  hr. Val d'Isère (6066 ft.), the highest church village in the Val d'Isère, in a basin, surrounded by lofty mountains, which are crested

with snow and glaciers. It was on the little plain on which Val d'Isère stands that the Vaudois, under Henri Arnaud, spent the night of August 21-22, 1689, having come over the Col du Bonhomme on the 20th, and crossing the Col d'Iseran on the 22nd. Val d'Isère is centrally placed in a noble country, and is the point of departure for the Col d'Iseran and other passes. 1. A path to the W. joins that from Tignes to the *Col de la Leisse*, descending to Thermignon by the N. branch of the Doron valley; 2. The *Col de la Rocheure* to Thermignon, by the S. branch of the same valley; the mountaineer will prefer to cross over the *Pointe de la Sana* (11,310 ft.), which commands a most glorious view. 3. The *Col de la Galise* to Ceresole (Rte. 147). 4. Several glacier passes to the Val de Rhêmes (Rte. 147A). 5. Several easy passes, W. and E. of the Iseran, lead to *Bonneval* and Bessans; but the mountaineer will prefer to climb over *Pelaou Blanc*, (10,289 ft.), or the *Pointe de Méanmartin* (10,949 ft.), or the *Grande Aiguille Rousse* (11,424 ft.) by the N. ridge, the last being one of the finest excursions to be made from the village.

The *Sassière* and *Grande Motte* (see above) can be climbed nearly as easily from Val d'Isère as from Tignes; the *Tsanteleina* (11,831 ft., 6 hrs. by the S. face, descending by the N. face, and returning either by the Col de la Goletta or the Col de Rhêmes); *Pointe de Bazel* (11,296 ft.), and *Pointe de la Galise* (10,965 ft.), best from Val d'Isère. For the *Rocher de Franchet* see under Tignes, and for the *Mont Iseran* see under the pass of that name. Travellers who do not propose to undertake any of the higher expeditions around Val d'Isère, should not fail to visit the Lac de Tignes, and to go 2 or 3 hrs. on the Col de la Galise rte. to the sources of the Isère. Slightly more laborious excursions are the round by the *Thouvière chalets*, the Grand Pra (whence a short walk leads up the *Rochers de Bellavarde* (9295 ft.) or the *Rocher du Charvet* (9384

ft.), and the Combe du Charvet), and that by the Cols du Dôme and de la Bailletta under the S. face of the Tsanteleina, ascending (no difficulty) either the *Pointe de Picheru* (9702 ft.), or the *Pointe de la Bailletta* (10,040 ft.).

From *Val d'Isère* by the *Col d'Iseran* to Bonneval is a walk of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.; to Lanslebourg  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. The char-road continues to Fornet ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.) and then the mule-path mounts in zigzags, but the footpath turning l. from Val d'Isère begins in 10 min., at the hamlet of **Laisenant**, to ascend to the rt., by a stunted pine-forest. The path crosses a small torrent, and then mounts in zigzags on its rt. bank, finally bearing away S.E. through forest and over pastures where the course is confused by cattle-tracks, and the true path is only known by bearings. After gaining a grassy hollow (at its edge the mule-path from Fornet is re-joined near a great stone pyramid), which runs up between rocky ridges about 2 m. direct to the col, the ascent is quite easy, with fine view, looking back, of the dark precipices of the Sassièrè, the Granta Parei, and Tsanteleina. The Mont Pourri, Grande Casse, and Grande Motte are seen earlier on the ascent. The track is well marked by a line of stone pyramids, each of which has a niche that would afford some shelter in bad weather. The soil produces myriads of flowers, and of great variety. Some crosses mark the loss of life in these solitudes; in one instance by murder; in another a poor soldier was found dead from cold and exhaustion. On reaching the stone hut on the *Col* (9085 ft.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 hrs. from Val d'Isère), a scene unsurpassed for savagery, but grand in the extreme, opens on the traveller. A chain of snow-peaks and glaciers stretch S.W. from the *Levanna*, by the *Ciamarella* and *Albaron* to the *Charbonel*. Directly E. of the col, some 1600 ft. above it, is a rocky peak, which occupies the site of a fictitious mountain, the *Mont Iseran*, figuring on the old official map of Piedmont

as a peak of 13,271 ft. above the sea, though, in point of fact, the Mont Iseran is no more a mountain than the *Mont Cenis*, *Monte Moro*, and other passes so called. The mistake is supposed to have arisen from imperfect observations of the Grand Paradis, Levanna, and Sassièrè, which from certain points of view might be supposed to occupy this position. That no peak approaching such a height is to be found within several miles of the Col d'Iseran, was ascertained by 3 distinguished members of the Alpine Club, Messrs. Cowell, W. Mathews, and Tuckett. The *Signal du Mont Iseran* (10,634 ft., huge cairn on top), which is the real representative of this mythical monarch, may be easily gained from any side, best by its N.W. ridge, or S. ridge and S.E. face, least conveniently by its E. ridge from the Col Pers. Farther E. is the snow and rock group of the Aiguille Pers, the highest point of which, the *Dent du Montet* (11,323 ft.), may be easily gained by its W. side, and may be visited by any one passing the col by making a *détour* of 2 or 3 hrs.

From the col, the course lies to the rt. down steep denuded slopes to an elevated valley, which terminates in a defile (here a bridge leads over to the l. bank of the torrent), where a cataract falls to the rt. of the path. From this ravine the descent is rough to the pasturages of Lenta.

From these pasturages (at the end of which a bridge by a little chapel leads back to the rt. bank) the descent is steep and stony. The track bearing to the rt. descends in zigzags to

2 hrs. **Bonneval** (6021 ft.), a grim and miserable place, consisting of a church and rather large collection of dirty stone hovels, and a chapel (close to the bridge), on which a marble tablet with a Latin inscription recording its restoration in 1697 has an incongruous effect in this wilderness. M. Culet, the intelligent chasseur who received several generations of explorers, died 2 yrs. ago.



It is better to push on to Bessans, which, though farther from the mountains, offers much better quarters. Here the char-road to Lanslebourg begins. The valley is exceedingly wild, and a little above the village presents a most extraordinary scene of ruin, called the *Clapier de Fodan*, where an older Bonneval is said to lie buried beneath the rocks. The highest peak of the three-headed *Levanna*, at the headwaters of the Arc, is 11,943 ft. above the sea, and may be ascended (like its 2 brethren) without any difficulty from the head of the valley ( $6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Bonneval). The *Roc du Mulinet* (11,382 ft.), and the *Grande Aiguille Rousse* (11,424 ft.), are the other chief peaks, the ascent of which can be better made from Bonneval than from Bessans; the *Ciamarella* is difficult from the French side. Most of these summits slope westward, and terminate towards the E. in precipices. W. of the *Levanna* are the *Uja di Ciamarella* (12,061 ft.) and *Albaron* (12,015 ft.).

[The range is crossed by several high passes to the Val d'Orco, and the 3 valleys of the Stura (Val Grande, Val d'Ala, Val di Viù, see Rte. 156 A). 1. *Col du Carro* to Ceresole. 2. *Col de Girard*, passing immediately S. of the E. summit of the *Levanna*, in 8 hrs. to Groscavallo. 3. *Col de Sea*, in 9 hrs. to Groscavallo, a longer rte., also over glacier. The scenery of the *Col de Sea* is finer than that of the *Col de Girard*, but the view from the top not so extensive. (For details, see Rte. 156 A.)

It is about 8 hrs. to Ceresole by the *Col du Carro*. The track mounts nearly due N., reaching in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. the source of the Arc (about 9000 ft.), which flows out in considerable volume from the rocky ground. Thence N.E. to the col (10,506 ft.) W. of the *Levanna*. The descent on the Italian side is steeper, and over an easy glacier to the pastures (Rte. 147.)]

1 hr. below Bonneval the glen expands, and a broad valley, dotted with hamlets, extends to Lansle-

bourg. In the distance are seen the forests about Mt. Cenis: to the l. is the Val d'Avérole, between the *Charbonel* on the W., and the *Albaron* on the E., and a view through the opening of glaciers, over which passes lead to Val d'Ala and Val di Viù. In another 20 min. the road reaches

**Bessans**, another but larger and more prosperous village of long stone huts. The church, on a height, has a musical peal of bells. Near it is the ruined chapel of *St. Anthony*, with some remarkable old frescoes, mainly representing scenes from the life of Christ, the paintings, in some cases, being remarkably fresh, though unfortunately now allowed to fall into decay. The dark blue dresses worn by the women on Sunday are so made as to give great apparent breadth of shoulder. Kerchiefs and aprons gaily worked in flowers, and white caps, complete the costume. The women ride two together, astride, upon donkeys, which are here the common beast of burden, and are salted and eaten when too old for work. A little beyond the village is the opening of the Val de Ribon, through which the *Rochemelon* (Rte. 154) may be easily gained in 6 or 7 hrs. [Among the many other ascents which may be made from this very centrally placed village, are the *Pointe de Méanmartin* (10,949 ft.), the *Pointe de Ronce* (11,871 ft.), the *Albaron* (12,015 ft.) and (3 hrs. from the *Col d'Arnaz*) the splendid rock peak called *Bessanese* or *les Grandes Pareis* (11,867 ft.). For the passes to Val d'Isère see above. From Bessans the ascent of the *Char-donnet* or *Charbonel* (12,336 ft.), the highest peak in this neighbourhood, may be made from *La Goulaz*, at the opening of the Val d'Avérole, in 6 hrs. up. By the *Val d'Avérole*—the highest permanently inhabited hamlet in which, *Avérole*, is 6617 ft. high, the highest in the Alps save Juf in the Grisons, which is 6700 ft.—three passes lead into the Piedmontese valleys of Ala and Viù. 1. The *Col de Collerin*, to Balme in  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs, and on

to Lanzo in 3 hrs. 2. The *Col de l'Autaret*, a very ancient, long, and roundabout passage, with remains of a paved track, now partly covered with snow and ice, and some Roman inscriptions, in 9 hrs. from Bessans to Usseglio in Val di Viù. 3. The *Col d'Arnaz* is a far more direct and interesting rte., leading to Balme in 7 hrs. (see next Rte.).]

At Bessans the Arc is crossed, and some way farther the ridge of *La Magdeleine* is passed before reaching

**Lans le Villard**,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. above Lanslebourg. [From this village a path leads to the great rte. of the Mont Cenis.]

**Lanslebourg** (Rte. 154), about 3 hrs. walking from Bessans.

## ROUTE 156 A.

### THE VALLEYS OF LANZO—VAL GRANDE—VAL D'ALA—VAL DI VIÙ.

These valleys, although as easy of access from Turin as those of the Vaudois, and opened up by good roads, have been almost entirely neglected by English travellers, owing in part to the rugged character of the passes over the main chain to which they lead (Rte. 156). There are, however, many pleasant paths between the various glens on the Italian side of the chain; and a rough track connects the Val Grande with Ceresole in Val d'Orco, one of the best head-quarters in the Graian Alps. The whole district abounds in rich and beautiful scenery, and the peaks (three of over 12,000 ft.) and glaciers of the main range between the Rochemelon and the Levanna deserve the attention of mountaineers. The *Inns* have been much improved. At Viù, Ala, Ceres, and Groscavallo there is now very tolerable accommodation. Balme offers the best headquarters for mountaineers. Forno in Val Grande is

still intolerable even for a night. The best guide-book is vol. i. of Martelli and Vaccarone's *Guida delle Alpi Occidentali*.

From Turin, a rly., starting from a small stat. N. of the town, runs through a rich and level country, with fine views of the Alps, to (20 m., 1-1 $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs.)

**Lanzo**, a country town (1535 ft., 2703 Inhab.), beautifully situated at the foot of the Alps, in the corner where they bend eastwards. A stroll may be taken to the *Ponte del Roc* or *Diavolo*, a remarkable bridge of a single arch across the Stura, built in 1378. On a rocky point, 1522 ft. above the stat., is a church dedicated to St Ignatius (built 1727).

[There are rough mule-passes to Locana in Val d'Orco by the richly-wooded *Val di Tesso*, in 7-8 hrs.]

The 3 valleys which unite above Lanzo are known as the Valle Grande, the Valle d'Ala, and the Valle di Viù. The Valle Grande is the northernmost.

**Val Grande**, carriage-road to Forno, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.

From Lanzo a good road runs along the l. bank of the Stura. The opening of the Val di Viù is soon passed, and opposite Ceres that of the Val d'Ala.

**Ceres** (2310 ft.), 8 m. from Lanzo, is the principal village of the valleys. The sanctuary of Santa Cristina on a neighbouring hill (4397 ft.) commands beautiful views.

[Locana may be reached hence in 6 hrs. by the *Col di Pierrascritta*, or Ceresole in 8 hrs. from Groscavallo by the *Col della Crocetta*. Both are rough passes, barely passable for mules.]

In ascending to the Val Grande it is not necessary to turn aside to Ceres; the carriage-road goes on the l. side of the stream to *Procaria*, whence it mounts gently through an open wooded valley to

**Chialamberto** (2805 ft.), 11 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Lanzo. 2 m. further is **Bonzo**,



overshadowed by steep hills. The snowy range at the head of the valley comes into sight, and the green but bare pastoral basin of Groscavallo opens.

**Groscavallo** (3609 ft.), 15½ m. from Lanzo. 2 m. higher up is **Forno - Alpi - Graie** (4022 ft.), where the road ends. The head of the valley is a cirque of singular grandeur, dominated by the peaks of the Levanna and the glaciers that connect them with the Ciamarella. On the S. side of the valley is the sanctuary of *La Madonna del Forno* (½ hr. from the village), surrounded by a grove of noble beech and plane trees, the remnant of the forests which, as old documents prove, once clothed the head of the valley.

[To the N. the *Col della Piccola*, a rough pass of 7 hrs., leads to Ceresole. When travellers learn the attractions of these valleys, this pass will come into notice as the natural link between them and the Eastern Graians.]

Two glens unite with Forno. Through the northern the mountaineer may climb to the *Col de Girard* (10,119 ft.), a glacier pass by which it is 8 hrs. to Bonneval, at the head of the valley of the Arc. The southern glen leads to the somewhat less difficult, but, on the whole, more attractive *Col de Sea* (10,155 ft.), by which the valley of the Arc is reached in 9 hrs.

A steep pass, known as the *Ghiket de Sea* (8973 ft.), leads from the chalets of Sea to those of Mussa in Val d'Ala. Another and shorter (*Ghiket d'Ala*) leads nearly direct to Balme.

The central and eastern points of the 3-peaked *Levanna* (11,943 ft.) can be climbed from the *Col de Girard* by fair mountaineers. For all these passes good guides are necessary.

### Val d'Ala.

Val d'Ala is the narrowest and wildest of the 3 valleys of Lanzo.

From Ceres (8 m. from Lanzo) a narrow char-road leads up the valley to Balme. It is 5 m. through a singularly picturesque rocky defile to the principal village,

### Ala (3547 ft.).

About 2 m. higher is **Mondrone** (4124 ft.). Near here is a fine waterfall, where the Stura leaps into a profound chasm, over which a wooden bridge for the use of visitors has been built.

Above Mondrone the valley appears to be closed by a steep barrier. An hr.'s ascent by the road leads to a level plain beyond it, in which stands **Balme** (4784 ft.). The excellent mountain guide, *Antonio Castagneri* (who perished on Mont Blanc in August 1890) was a native of this village, where is a tablet set up in his honour by the Italian Alpine Club. The green flowery Alpine meadows form a foreground to the magnificent rocky peak of the *Bessanese* (11,867 ft.), which blocks the valley. It is easy to ascend the valley to the glacier at its extreme head, passing the chalets of *Mussa* and the Alp of *Narassa*.

The *Col de Collerin* (10,624 ft.) is an ordinary glacier pass. It takes its name from a steep gully, or *couloir*, on the Italian side, where the axe is sometimes useful. It is a walk of 7 hrs. by it to Bessans, to which the *Col d'Arnaz* (9958 ft., Club hut near its foot) is a more interesting rte.

The *Ciamarella* (12,061 ft.) is often ascended from Balme (6 hrs.). The *Albaron* (12,015 ft., *Pointe de Chanson* of French map) is accessible from the *Col de Collerin*.

The *Uja di Mondrone* (9725 ft.), between the Val Grande and Val d'Ala, and the *Torre d'Orarda* (10,089 ft.), between the Ala and Viù valleys, command fine views and can be reached in 6 hrs. from Balme.

The *Col Pasciet* leads in 5 hrs. to Lemie in Val di Viù.

## Val di Viù.

The road to Viù crosses the Stura by the Ponte di Germagnano,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Lanzo. After passing the junction of the streams, the road constantly ascends beside the Stura di Viù, through very beautiful scenery. The peak of the Rochemelon is seen in the background. Two hrs.' drive ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  m.) from Lanzo is

**Viù** (2576 ft.), a large village, with many villas in the Swiss style, frequented by the Turinese during the season of *villeggiatura*. Here the carriage-road ends.

Above Viù a good mule-track mounts through fine scenery. The church of **Lemie** (2 hrs.,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Lanzo), stands out picturesquely on a rock in the centre of the valley. After passing the chalets of **Saletta**, the valley is for a time steeper and narrower, and then suddenly opens out. The traveller sees before him a fertile plain some 4 m. long. The slopes are sparsely covered with the remnants of an ancient forest, and in the background rises an imposing mountain chain. The numerous hamlets scattered over the plain have each a name, but are collectively known as

**Usseglio**,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Lanzo (4134 ft.). The valley here splits into two glens. The N.W. branch leads by the fine *Lago della Rossa*, and the pass of the *Collarin d'Arnaz* above it (direct descent to Balme) to the easy glacier and the pass of the *Col d'Arnaz* (9958 ft.), and thus to Bessans in 8 to 9 hrs. from Usseglio.

The S. glen leads to the circuitous pass of the *Col de l'Autaret* (10,115 ft.), once practicable for mules. 2 hrs. above Usseglio are the **Malciaus-sia** chalets (5870 ft.), under the Rochemelon, which may be climbed from them by a steep direct rte., or by the *Col della Croce di Ferro*—a pass to Susa at its E. base (see Rte. 154)—in 6 hrs.

## ROUTE 157.

MOÛTIERS TARENTEISE TO LANSLEBOURG, BY THE COL DE LA VANOISE.

**Moûtiers** (Rte. 156). Carriage-road as far as Pralognan (diligences every other day in 5 hrs. from Brides, corresponding with the early diligence from Albertville and Moûtiers); beyond it is necessary to take a horse, or proceed on foot. This pass may be performed in one *long* day, 12 hrs.' steady walking without halts, but it is better to break the journey at Pralognan.

The road passes the old *Salines* of Moûtiers, and ascending the rt. bank of the Doron, reaches in  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr., 1 m., the rock of *Salins*, opposite the confluence of the valley of *Bozel*, or the Doron, with that of *Belleville*. The latter leads to St. Michel by the *Col des Encombres*, and its tributary valley, the Nant Brun, to St. Jean de Maurienne, by the *Col de la Platière* (Rte. 154): either an easy day's journey.

The *Château de Salins* was anciently the residence of the archbishop of Moûtiers. Its ruins are immediately above the *salt springs*, principally used for bathing purposes.

**Salins** is supposed to be the site of the ancient Darentasia. The town was almost destroyed about the end of the 14th cent., by a fall from the mountains on the W., and subsequent falls destroyed what remained except the castle, and this has been since demolished.

The castle remained long after the destruction of the town in the 14th cent. Books printed by *Maurice Mermillion* at the château very soon after the discovery of printing still exist, and it is supposed that the first press in Savoy was established here, and that Mermillion was the Caxton of the Tarentaise.

Salins lies S. of Moûtiers. From the confluence, the road into the valley of Bozel crosses to the l. bank of the Doron and takes an easterly



direction through a beautiful district rich in wood and highly cultivated to

**Brides-les-Bains**,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  m. from Moûtiers. This pretty watering-place (1870 ft.), at the junction of the valleys of Allues and Bozel, is resorted to in summer for its mineral springs. The waters are impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen, and much used for all troubles connected with the digestion and corpulence. Their temperature is  $95^{\circ}$ . The *Etablissement des Bains* is on a large scale, and comprises (besides baths) a Casino, reading, concert, and ball rooms, and gardens. The season lasts from May 15 to Oct. 15, and the recent improvements in the place have attracted a greatly increased number of visitors.

The views are extremely fine, and the neighbourhood abounds in beautiful walks; one of the pleasantest is by a footpath through the wood, at a considerable height above the S. bank of the stream towards Moûtiers. The lateral valleys of the Doron are full of beautiful scenery, particularly the valley of Allues. From the chalets of *Châtelet*, near the Col de la Forclaz, Mont Blanc can be seen, and a vast extent of the peaks of the great chain.

[There are two little known passes, *Col de la Chambre* and *Col de la Montée du Fond*, leading by the Combe des Allues in 11 hrs. to St. Michel. To the E. of these passes lies a little visited glacier mass, of which the highest summit (first climbed in 1878) is the *Aig. de Pécel* (11,700 ft.). A lofty pass (*Col de Gébroulaz*, 11,377 ft.) leads between this peak and the *Aig. de Polset* from Brides to Modane or St. Michel. It is a pleasant excursion from Brides to go up the Combe des Allues to the foot of the Gébroulaz Glacier, and thence mount by the *Col de Chanrouge*, S.E. of the remarkable rock of the *Aig. du Fruit* (10,027 ft.) to the pasture basin of the Petite Val, whence a direct descent may be made to Bozel, or the low *Col de la Petite Val*, N. of the

Mont Blanc de Pralognan, crossed to Pralognan, reached in 6 hrs. from the foot of the glacier. From the foot of the glacier the *Col de Rouge* and *Pas du Souffre* lead to the foot of the final ascent to the Col de Chavière, by which Modane may be gained.]

From Brides carriage-roads lead by either bank of Doron in  $4\frac{1}{4}$  m. to

**Bozel**, where the Val Rivière falls in from the S. Between the two villages the valley is richly cultivated, and above cornfields and orchards are pine-forests, snows and glaciers. The valley is closed at the head by the mountains of Peisey and by the beautiful peak of Mont Pourri.

A short distance beyond Bozel the valley forks. The main branch of the Doron issues from the valley of Pralognan, while the other less considerable stream descends from the *Val de Prémou* nearly due E. of Bozel. [ $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. above the point where the road turns S. to Pralognan is **Champagny**, 3 m. from Bozel, at the opening of the **Val de Prémou**. At the hamlet of **Le Bois** (4856 ft.), beyond a fine gorge, fair quarters and good beds may be found. It takes about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.' steady walking to reach a sort of plateau at the head of this valley, on which are several small lakes, of which that nearest the summit is called *Lac de Gratel*. From this point, by turning first N., and then descending N.W., the traveller may reach the mines of Peisey (Rte. 156). The direct course to the rt. of the lake, a little N. of E., leads by the *Col du Palet* (8721 ft.) to Tignes, reached thus in about 8 hrs. from Bozel. Pralognan may be gained from the head of the valley by the fine glacier-pass of the *Col de la Grande Casse*, just W. of the Grande Casse, whence you descend to the Col de la Vanoise path. From Le Bois, the easy ascent of the *Grand Bec de Pralognan* (11,221 ft) may be made in 5 hrs. or so (splendid view), and the valley of Peisey reached by several easy

passes, or better over the summit of the *Aig. du Midi de Peisey* (11,227 ft.) (see Rte. 156 under Bourg St. Maurice).]

The road to Pralognan passes the village of *Villard Gôitreux*, built at the junction of the 2 branches of the Doron, and then climbs up by many zigzags. [At the top of these zigzags, a beautiful path through forest leads by Le Planay (in the Prémou valley) to the high road from Bozel up that glen, Le Bois being reached by this rte. in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Pralognan.] A char may be taken the whole way; but no time will be saved, as the road is steep, and the old track keeping nearer the stream is more interesting. On the rt. there is a cataract, formed by the fall of the Doron into the gorges of Balandaz. The road then passes through the village of *Planay* (in the Doron valley) and ascends more zigzags till the valley widens to the beautiful meadows and calm retirement of the valley of Pralognan.

**Pralognan**, 15 m. from Moûtiers, and 4672 ft. high, embosomed in pine-forests, over which rise the precipices of the Marchets, is a most picturesque spot. The Grande Casse is visible a few minutes' walk across the meadows to the S. Many excursions and ascents may be made in the neighbourhood. The *Mont Blanc de Pralognan* (8809 ft.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.), *Rocher de Villeneuve* (7225 ft.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.), and *Dent Portetta* (8642 ft., 5 hrs.) are accessible to fair walkers. More laborious are the *Rocher de Plassas* (9400 ft., 5 hrs.), the *Roc du Dard* (10,716 ft., 6 hrs.), and the *Pointe de la Rechasse* (10,575 ft., 7 hrs.). Of the higher expeditions, the *Grande Casse*, and the col of the same name, are described below. The *Dôme de Chasseforêt* (11,802 ft., 6-7 hrs.), in the centre of the vast Vanoise snow fields, offers no real difficulties, and a most glorious view (ascent strongly recommended), while Thermignon may be reached direct from it. The *Pointe de la Glière* (11,109 ft., 6 hrs.) is a delightful scramble for a moun-

taineer. The fine snow-peak which closes the valley to the S. is the easternmost point of the *Aig. de Polset* (11,254 ft.), and is accessible by a nearly direct climb in 7 or 8 hrs., or in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the *Col de Gébroulaz* to the W. (gained from the head of the Doron valley by way of the Lac Blanc), whence, too, the *highest point of the Aig. de Polset* (11,608 ft.) may be reached, and also the *Aig. de Pécelet* (11,700 ft.). The *Dent Parrachée* (12,179 ft.) is best climbed from the *Fournache* chalets, which may be reached over the Col d'Aussois. The *Grand Bec de Pralognan* (11,221 ft.) has been reached by a steep climb up the W. rock-face, but is best reached by a long circuit round its S. end, and the glacier to the E., where the rte. from Le Bois (see above) is joined.

[Two passes lead from Pralognan to the valley of the Arc, more direct, but higher and more difficult, than the Col de la Vanoise. Both are approached by following the Doron to the chalets of *La Motte*. A little above them the valley divides; the l.-hand ravine leads by the *Col d'Aussois* (or Col de Rosoire), (about 9600 ft.) to Aussois, above Fort de l'Esseillon (Rte. 154). The scenery on both sides is very fine, and near the last chalets (*Ritort*) on the N. side there is a magnificent view of Mont Blanc. The pass which lies at the head of the rt. or W. branch of the Doron is the *Col de Chavière* (9206 ft.), and leading direct to Modane. By the latter pass, Modane can easily be gained in 8 hrs., in time for the afternoon, or even the mid-day, trains. From the easternmost of the 2 depressions which constitute the former pass—which is much more circuitous—the *Roche Chevière* (10,768 ft.), can be gained in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 hrs., and commands a most splendid view.]

The ascent from Pralognan to the Col de la Vanoise is very wild and picturesque. In about an hour a green basin with a group of chalets, called *La Glière de Pralognan*, is reached. A sharp pinnacle of rock,



called on the French map *Aig. de la Vanoise* (9226 ft.), is seen in the centre of the ridge in the direction of the col. It is possible to pass on either side of this, but the regular track passes to the N. of it. The ascent is rough, in part over moraine, and past several lakes. From near the summit (3 hrs.), there is a fine view of the *Grande Casse* (12,668 ft.), the highest peak in the Tarentaise, hence ascended, for the first time, in 1860 by Mr. W. Mathews. It is accessible in 4 or 4½ hrs., and commands a wonderful view.

[A fine pass, *Col de la Grande Casse*, a deep gap to the W. of the peak, leads over glaciers to the head of Val de Prémou. By this route and the Col du Palet, Tignes may be reached from Pralognan in one long day.]

The track on both sides of the col is marked by poles, and in good weather a mountaineer will scarcely require a guide. Near the top are several considerable lakes, the source of streams which descend on one side to the Doron, and on the other to the Arc. On the rt., enormous glaciers extend to the *Dent Parrachée*, the mountain which is seen from the Mont Cenis road, over Thermignon.

The descent from the col (8291 ft.) (much exposed to winds, one of which takes its name from the pass) towards *Entre-deux-Eaux* is rapid. The long sterile valley above these chalets leads by the Col de la Leisse to Tignes, in the Val d'Isère (Rte. 156). [The *Grande Motte* (12,018 ft.), rising in graceful sweeps of snow W. of the Col de la Leisse, can be ascended from Entre-deux-Eaux, in 6 hrs., or in 3½ hrs. up and down from the col. The rte. is by a series of snow-slopes, and the E. or N. arêtes.] After another descent the torrent is crossed, but, instead of pursuing its course through the impassable gorge to Thermignon, a path is followed up the slopes high above its l. bank to the *Plan du Loup*, or Plan des Laux, a pasturage, not

so wild or high, but about the breadth of the Col de la Vanoise. The scene, looking back upon the valley of Entre-deux-Eaux and the Grande Casse, is very grand.

On the col of the Plan du Loup another small lake is passed, then a long descent to the hamlet of *Ste. Marguerite* commences. Below this place the path enters a pine-forest, in which are the striking rocky obelisks known as Rocs du Pelvoz, through which a rough road leads down to the valley above Thermignon, into which there are some magnificent peeps. There is still, however, a long descent before that village can be reached in about 3 hrs. from Entre-deux-Eaux. [There is a path from Ste. Marguerite over alps, leading directly to Lanslebourg; but, though shorter, it is even more fatiguing than the rte. to Thermignon, and one which it is difficult to pass with a laden mule]. Thermignon is on the great rte. of the Mont Cenis, 5 min. below

**Lanslebourg** (Rte. 154).

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## ROUTE 158.

FROM ST. JEAN DE MAURIENNE TO  
BOURG D'OISANS, BY THE COL  
D'ARVES AND THE COL DES  
PRÉS NOUVEAUX.

By starting very early from St. Jean de Maurienne it would be possible to reach Bourg d'Oisans the same day; but as it is a long journey of 14 leagues, it is better to pass the night at **St. Jean d'Arves**, a small village situated in the Val d'Arvan which joins the valley of the Arc at St. Jean de Maurienne. For full details as to all peaks and passes in the regions included in this and the three following Rtes., see MM. Coolidge, Duhamel, and Perrin's *Guide du Haut Dauphiné* (Grenoble, 1887), and the supplement to it issued in 1890.

A steep mule-track leads to the village of **Fontcouverte** and then rt. under **Villarembert**, then the traveller turning S.E., or l., and after a short descent crossing a small tributary of the Arvan, whence he mounts some steep grassy slopes to the *Col d'Arves* (5655 ft.), fine view,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from St. Jean de Maurienne. In another  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. he descends to **St. Jean d'Arves**, where, at *La Tour*, or the church hamlet, there is a rough *Inn*. The view from St. Jean is very beautiful, including the highest summits of the *Grandes Rousses* and the 3 *Aiguilles d'Arves*. [From St. Jean d'Arves, the *Col de la Croix de Fer* leads to Bourg d'Oisans by the *Combe d'Olle* and *Allemont*, and by the *Col du Glandon* to the *Combe des Villards* and *La Chambre* (Rte. 154). Glacier passes N. of the N. peak, and between the two peaks of the *Grandes Rousses* afford fine direct rtes. to Bourg d'Oisans. Either of the two highest peaks (11,395 ft.) may be reached in 7 or 8 hrs. from St. Jean d'Arves by way of the *Col d'Ornon*, and the descent may be made to Bourg d'Oisans, which is a more convenient starting-point (Rte. 159). The view from the summit is very extensive, and well rewards the labour of the ascent, which is quite free from difficulty to mountaineers.] The *Col d'Arves* might be avoided by following the course of the Arvan; but that stream makes a great détour to the l. between Fontcouverte and St. Jean d'Arves. The rte. beyond leads nearly due S. over wide and luxuriant pastures to a second grassy col, *Col d'Ornon*, whence the traveller traverses, by a path, round the head of the Arvan valley (attainable from St. Jean d'Arves by a long and circuitous route past St. Sorlin d'Arves), and ascends some steep zigzags in order to reach, in 4 hrs. from St. Jean d'Arves, the old frontier between Savoy and France at the point called the *Col des Prés Nouveaux*, 7423 ft. above the sea, a little to the E. of the great mountain mass of

the *Grandes Rousses*. The path then descends through pastures even more luxuriant than those of the Maurienne, by the side of the *Valette*, a tributary of the *Romanche*; and, after mounting the ridge on the l. bank of this river, comes down upon *Besse*, a miserable and filthy village about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the col; and then, passing through **Mizoën**, hits the great road a little above **Le Freney**, which is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Besse. From Freney to **Bourg d'Oisans** is a 2 hrs.' walk,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. If, however, the traveller be bound for the *Vallon du Venéon*, it is better not to go to Bourg, but proceed from Freney to *Vénosc*, by the col of the same name, a journey of about 3 hrs. Almost all the way from St. Jean de Maurienne to Vénosc the mountains are composed of a black argillaceous shale, which doubtless produces the luxuriance of vegetation.

From St. Jean d'Arves, the *Col de Martignare* and *Col de l'Infernet* (8826 ft.), commanding a superb view of the Meije range, lead to La Grave on the Lautaret road,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  m. above Bourg d'Oisans. The *Col Lombard* is a very easy glacier pass at the foot of the Southern *Aiguille d'Arves*, and leads from St. Jean d'Arves by the Arvette glen direct to La Grave. From it the S. *Aiguille* can be ascended with great difficulty, the *Aiguilles de la Saussaz* and the *Aiguille du Goléon* with great ease (see next Rte.).

Mountaineers can pass the gaps between the *Aiguilles d'Arves* from St. Jean d'Arves to Valloire, to which easier passes lie over the steep range to the N. of the *Aiguilles*, separating the two valleys.

### ROUTE 158 A.

ST. MICHEL TO THE COL DU LAUTARET, BY VALLOIRE AND THE COL DU GALIBIER.

This is an important carriage-road, made for military purposes.



The fine zigzag road through pleasant woods and meadows, commanding fine views of the ranges beyond the Arc and the glaciers of the A. de Pécelet and its glaciers opposite, climbs the hillside S. of St. Michel towards the chapel of the *Trois Croix* (fine view of Aigs. d'Arves and Ecrins), whence a path descends to Valloire, 3 hrs. from St. Michel. [Twenty min. below the chapel the new road bears away to the rt. from the old foot-path before traversing by a short tunnel the crest dividing the Arc valley from the Combe de Valloire. On the culminating point of this ridge an important fortress has been constructed. The Valloire valley in its lower portion, is a deep and savage gorge. Terraces cut in very steep hillsides lead to a shoulder, whence the road, rejoining that from the chapel at Le Clos, descends gently into the fertile village-studded basin of **Valloire** (4692 ft.). [Valloire is a good centre for a short stay. Among the many ascents to be made from it, the following are recommended, *Pointe de la Grande Chible*, (9633 ft., 4½ hrs.), and the *Aiguille de l'Epais-seur* (10,633 ft., 5½ hrs.). The *Roche du Grand Galibier* (10,636 ft.) is better ascended from the Lautaret, but can be reached in 6 or 7 hrs. from Valloire by the great snow couloir so well seen from near that village.]

Above Valloire the road follows the stern and stony valley, passing first the opening of the glen leading up to the bold peaks of the Aiguilles d'Arves and then the glen which leads to the Col du Goléon.

[The *Aiguilles d'Arves*, three sharp rock pinnacles (central and highest peak 11,529 ft.), have all yielded to the assaults of Mr. Coolidge. There is a pass between the N. and central Aiguille by which St. Jean d'Arves may be reached. The descent is through a couloir, and over steep slopes of rocks and shale, sometimes well covered with snow early in the season.

By the *Col du Goléon*, command-

ing from the summit a glorious view (extended by climbing along the ridge to the N. in 1½ hr. to the *Pointe de l'Argentière* 10,630 ft.), La Grave may be reached in 6½ hrs. from Valloire.]

The ascent to the Col du Galibier becomes steep at La Charmette (whence there is a pass, *Col de la Ponsonnière*, to Monestier, and another the *Col des Rochilles* to Nevache in the Clairée valley and so to Briançon). After several zigzags, the upper pasturages are attained, but it is some time before the final ridge comes into sight. The road mounts to it by more zigzags. Near the summit the botanist will find many rare plants.

The *Col du Galibier* (8721 ft.) is the second in height of all Alpine carriage-roads, being only inferior to the Stelvio. It commands a superb view of the Dauphiné Alps; Monte Viso and Mont Blanc are also visible. A tunnel has recently been pierced under the Col to avoid the traverse of the exposed summit ridge in winter. A long and easy descent leads in zigzags to the road of the Col du Lautaret, a mile below the Hospice, but pedestrians can bear to the r. from the *Mandette* chalets and descend by pastures to the Hospice on the Col du Lautaret itself (1 hr.).

From Valloire to the Lautaret hospice is about 6 hrs.' easy walking. It is doubtful whether any carriage would be found at Valloire, but it would be possible to drive from Monestier to that village in the opposite direction.

## ROUTE 159.

GRENOBLE TO BRIANÇON, BY  
BOURG D'OISANS AND THE COL  
DU LAUTARET.

Miles.

8¾ . . . **Grenoble.**  
**Vizille** (rly.)

Miles.	
30 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bourg d'Oisans
38	Le Freney
46	La Grave
53	Col du Lautaret
60	Monestier de Briançon
69	Briançon

This road skirts the N. side of the loftiest district of the *Dauphiné Alps*, or group of *Mont Pelvoux*, and abounds in grand and romantic scenery.

**Grenoble** (*Gratianopolis*), the chief city in the Dépt. de l'Isère, beautifully situated at the confluence of the Isère and Drac (Pop. 52,484), is described in the HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE (Rte. 131). The pedestrian may walk from Bourg to Briançon in 13 hrs., and the scenery will amply repay him.

[A rte. may be followed over the mountains to Bourg by the **Baths of Uriage** a very popular watering-place (1358 ft., 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Grenoble), from which several excursions may be made, one of which is the ascent of the *Croix de Belledonne* (9457 ft.), 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. below the top of which is the little mountain inn of *La Pra*. From this mountain a descent can be made to the Combe d'Olle, which opens into the Lautaret road 5 m. from Bourg.]

There is a circuitous rly. from Grenoble by Gap, to Briançon; but the distance by this rte. is about double, and through a less interesting country, whilst that by the Col du Lautaret abounds in the finest scenery. To save this distance, Napoleon commenced in 1808 the road over this pass, and many magnificent works were constructed upon it, but after his abdication it was abandoned, and it was only completed in 1861. For some distance from Grenoble it traverses a plain, through avenues, to the village of **Pont de Claix**, where there is a remarkable bridge of a single arch, built away from the original course of the Drac, which was diverted to it. The road thence continues along the banks of the Romanche to

**Vizille Stat.** on the Gap rly. The town is 2 m. E. It is considered as the cradle of the first French Revolution, for here the representatives of the municipalities of Dauphiné first made a declaration that they would pay no taxes unless voted by the States General. This was done in the Tennis Court or 'salle du jeu de Paume' of the Château. The *Château*, now the property of the Périer family, was rebuilt 1610-23 by the constable Lesdiguières, and restored by M. Périer, the brother of the minister, who established the cotton-spinning and calico-printing works. In 1825 and 1865 it was partly destroyed by fire.

The road ascends the r. bank of the Romanche through the narrow, but beautiful and well-wooded *Combe de Gavet*, which runs with nearly the same wild character into the heart of the mountains, between the *Belledonne*, N., and *Taillefer*, S. In some places it widens enough for the establishment of a village or a hamlet: of these, **Séchilienne** (whence the *Taillefer*, 9387 ft., so conspicuous from Grenoble, is easily accessible in 8 hrs., and Bourg d'Oisans may be reached by descending on the other side to Ornon), **Gavet**, and **Livet** are the principal. This remarkable ravine or *combe*, extends from Vizille to Bourg d'Oisans. It is within record that a large lake was formed in the basin of Bourg, in the 12th cent., by the falling of a mountain into this narrow gorge. A vast heap of earth and rocks dammed the river, and the waters accumulated in a lake, of which the surface was 3 leagues long, and 1 wide, and the depth from 60 to 80 ft. This happened in 1181, but in Sept. 1219, it burst its barrier, swept away in its fury everything that it touched, rapidly passed into the Drac and Isère, then, flowing over the plain below the two rivers, submerged a great part of Grenoble. At the village of **Sables** the valley turns at a rt. angle S., and is joined



from the N. by the Combe d'Olle, which runs up to the group of mountains called the *Grandes Rousses* (Rte. 158). [This is exceedingly prolific in ores. From Allemont, 2 m. from Sables, the *Grand Pic de Belledonne* (9681 ft.) is accessible in 5 or 6 hrs. (very fine view). 2½ hrs. above **Allemont** (the chief village), are the *Chalanches mines*, where gold, silver, iron, copper, and several other metals have been found. From the head of this valley the Sept Laux (Seven Lakes), the Baths of Allevard, or La Chambre on the Mt. Cenis road may be reached (Rte. 154).]

5 m. from Sables is

**Bourg d'Oisans**, situated on the l. bank of the river, 2392 ft. above the sea, on a mountain-girt plain, from which precipices of purple shale and grey limestone rise to a height of 1000 ft. To the W., on the face of these cliffs, are the *gold mines of Gardette*, which have been worked from an early period, and above them the small Glacier de Villard Eymond with pass to Le Périer on the Col d'Ornon road. The vegetation of the valley is remarkably rich; and the cliffs exhibit in some places extraordinary instances of tortuous stratification. On approaching Bourg, the lofty pastures of the Mont de Lans, not yet visible, close the head of the valley, and divide the torrent issuing from the dark gorge of the Venéon from that of the Romanche, which flows from the defile of l'Infernet.

[From Bourg a carriage-road, abounding in fine scenery, leads in 28½ m. by the Col d'Ornon to La Mure. HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE (Rte. 134).]

This is a starting-point for the exploration of the *Dauphiné Alps*, and other excursions can be made to the Combe d'Olle or the *Grandes Rousses*.

The latter group of mountains lies to the N.E., extends about 8 m., and rises in 2 peaks to 11,395 ft. The highest and most northerly was ascended by Messrs. Mathews and Bonney in 1863, by the Glacier de

la Cochette on the N.W. side. It can be reached without difficulty from St. Jean d'Arves (Rte. 158, but is best climbed from the Club hut near the *Lac de la Fare* 6 hrs. above Bourg d'Oisans. The S. peak is also accessible from both sides. Both summits command very extensive views. A fine excursion may be made to the *Lac Blanc* on the S.W. flank of the group in 4 hrs., and a descent can be made to Le Freney. The path crosses the bridge at Bourg d'Oisans and ascends N. to the village of Huez.

The *Dauphiné Alps*, of which the northern flank rises superbly some 9000 ft. above the plain of Bourg d'Oisans, attain their greatest height about the centre in the *Pointe des Ecrins*, 13,462 ft.

These mountains, formerly known as the *Mont Pelvoux* group, because that peak was long supposed to be the highest point, occupy an extensive district between the rivers Durance, Romanche, and Drac, and attain an elevation nearly 1000 ft. above that of *Monte Viso*, the summit of the neighbouring Cottian Alps. As a chain they are extremely irregular, and their deep and tortuous valleys descend towards every point of the compass. Several of the chief summits, however, are arranged in a line running N. and S. Near this, commencing at the N.W., are the splendid peaks of the *Meije*, or *Aig. du Midi de la Grave* (13,081 ft.), and the *Râteau* (12,317 ft.); on it are the *Grande Ruine* (12,317 ft.), the *Roche Faurio* (12,192 ft.), and the *Pointe des Ecrins*, the highest peak of the range, and, before the annexation of Mont Blanc, in France (13,462 ft.). S. of this point are the *Pic Coolidge* (12,323 ft.), and the *Pic d'Ailefroide* (12,989 ft.) (correctly Aléfroide), a magnificent pyramid of rock, as black as night, and with precipices which rival those of the Matterhorn. To the E. of the Ailefroide are the *Pic Sans Nom* (12,845 ft.), and *Mont Pelvoux* (12,973 ft.). From the S. extremity of this chain,

snowy ranges extend W., including the splendid summit of *Les Bans* (11,979 ft.), and the *Pic d'Olan* (11,739 ft.), a grand rocky peak, very difficult of access; and from the centre, to the N. of Les Ecrins, the graceful *Montagne des Agneaux* (12,008 ft.) rises to the E. In these are the sources of the Romanche. From Les Ecrins a shorter ridge, the *Crête de l'Encula* (12,399 ft.), stretches eastward, and separates two great ice-fields—the *Glacier Blanc* on the N., the *Glacier Noir* on the S.

[An excursion can be made to *La Bérarde*, at the foot of Les Ecrins, by the Vallon du Venéon, which from Bourg appears to be the continuation of the valley of the Romanche. There is a carriage road to beyond **Vénosc** (6¼ m.,) where mules may be obtained.

From Vénosc a traveller who is going to the Col du Lautaret can cross the *Col de l'Alpe* or *de Vénosc* in 3 hrs. to Le Freney, and save the détour by Bourg d'Oisans. It is a beautiful walk, and to a botanist most interesting, as the pastures are singularly rich in flowering plants. It passes to the W. of the great *Glacier du Mont de Lans*, a conspicuous feature in all views of this group of mountains from the N. It stretches E. nearly 6 m., in a billowy plateau, from a peak called the *Jandri* to the *Râteau*, sloping gently to ice-falls which overhang the Combe de Malaval.

2 hrs. from Vénosc (partly by a char-road) is **St. Christophe** (4623 ft.). In the village churchyard lies Emil Zsigmondy, of Vienna, who perished on the Meije in 1885 (see below).

The wild Val du Diable (or Vallon de la Selle) falls in from the E., and leads in 10½ hrs. by the glacier pass of the *Col de la Lauze* to La Grave.

From St. Christophe, the ascent of the *Aiguille du Plat* (11,818 ft.), may be made direct in 5½ hrs. View extremely fine. The *Tête de Lauranoure* (10,962 ft.), and the *Tête des Fétoules* (11,369 ft.), both so well seen oppo-

site St. Christophe, may be ascended in 4½ and 6¼ hrs. respectively.

From St. Christophe, rarely traversed passes lead over to the wild Valsenestre and Val Jouffrey on the S. side of the main group.

A little higher up (about 1 hr.) the glen of La Lavey runs S. to the *Col de la Muande*, approached by a glacier on the N. side, but with an easy descent to the Val Gaudemar (9 hrs.).

The main valley, now turning E., presents an extraordinary scene of ruin. A mountain has fallen, and the mule-path, rising in some places like a staircase, winds through a chaos of rocks. The Pointe des Ecrins becomes a magnificent object at the head of the valley. In about 3 hrs. from St. Christophe the traveller reaches the hamlet of

**La Bérarde** (5702 ft.), which for savage grandeur of scenery may vie with any village in the Alps. Shut in by granite cliffs, it stands at the junction of the valleys of Pilatte and Etançons, under the *Glacier de la Bonne Pierre*, which streams down between *Les Ecrins* and the *Roche Faurio* (12,192 ft.). Rt. and l. of Les Ecrins a range of rock peaks, the back-bone of the group, extends; N. by the *Roche Faurio*, the *Tête de Charrière* and *Grande Ruine* to the *Meije*; S. by the *Pic Coolidge* to the fine peak of the *Ailefroide* (12,989 ft.), which rises W. of *Mt. Pelvoux*. Many high passes lead from La Bérarde (Rte. 160).]

From Bourg d'Oisans to Briançon, a distance of 38½ m., is easily accomplished in the day in a char, changing at La Grave.

About 3 m. beyond Bourg d'Oisans the road reaches the end of the plain, at the confluence of the Venéon with the Romanche, and, crossing the Pont St. Guillaume, enters the gorge of *Infernet*, shut in by nearly vertical rocks of gneiss. It is carried along the l. bank, and high above the torrent on terraces and through tunnels, of which one, a fine engineering work, is 197



yards in length. Above the second tunnel may be seen, though much defaced, the gateway, cut in the rock, through which passed the original Roman road at a much higher level. This tremendous defile opens at **Le Freney** into a sterile valley thickly covered with rocks of enormous size which have fallen from the mountains, and are interspersed with a few trees and a scanty cultivation. [From Le Freney, the *Col des Prés Nouveaux* leads to St. Jean d'Arves (Rte. 158), while **Clavans**, at the head of the same valley, is a good starting-point to explore the chain of the Grandes Rousses.] Higher up this wild glen is the hamlet of

**Le Dauphin.** Above it the traveller enters the *Combe de Malaval*, a nearly straight ravine of unequalled wildness, bounded by the precipitous bases of mountains, seemingly though not really inaccessible, and crowned by fields of ice of which glimpses are obtained through lateral gorges.

Numerous streams descend in falls from the Glacier du Mont de Lans, and foaming over a steep talus of débris, cross the road, and add to the fury of the Romanche. Close to Les Fréaux, a magnificent cataract, springing from the top of the precipice, is called *Le Saut de la Pucelle* from the common story of a peasant-girl leaping down unhurt, to escape the violence of a chasseur.

Still further up the valley, on the S. side, are the lead-mines of Les Fréaux, the adits of which are seen high upon the side of the mountain.

At the head of this savage glen the road rises to

**La Grave en Oisans**, a small village, beautifully situated on a rock at a height of 5000 ft., and in full view of the precipices, pinnacles, and glaciers of the *Meije*, or *Aig. du Midi de la Grave*, and the long arête of the *Râteau*. The prospect from the little inn is one of the

noblest roadside views in the Alps; it is still better seen from the 15th cent. church, which in itself is worth looking at.

[S. are the glacier passes of the *Col de la Lauze* to St. Christophe; *Brèche de la Meije* (very fine) and *Col du Clot des Cavales* to La Bérarde (Rte. 160); *Col du Glacier Blanc* and the easier *Col Emile Pic* to Vallouise, following the Romanche to its source.

N. is the pass of the *Col du Goléon*, in 10 hrs. to St. Michel, while the easy glacier pass of the *Col Lombard*, or the wild but not difficult *Col de l'Infernet* (8826 ft., with a splendid view), lead in about 12 hrs. to St. Jean de Maurienne (see Rte. 158). The *Aiguilles d'Arve* (11,529 ft.), are fine peaks, to the N. of La Grave, and may be well seen by ascending the *Aiguille du Goléon* (11,251 ft.), a rough but not difficult climb of 5 hrs. from La Grave. The *Râteau* (12,317 ft.) is accessible from La Grave by the E. arête, and the descent may be made either to La Bérarde or to St. Christophe (an interesting climb). The *Pic de la Grave* (12,051 ft.) may be reached in 2 hrs., by its W. face, from the *Col de la Lauze* (a pass destined to become the Strahleck of Dauphiné), and commands a fine view. The *Grande Ruine* (12,317 ft.) may be climbed on the way to La Bérarde.

The *Plateau d'Emparis* above the village, commands one of the finest possible views of the *Meije* (13,081 ft.), of which the W. pinnacle, no unworthy rival of the Aig. du Dru at Chamonix, was ascended for the first time, in 1877, from the head of the Vallon des Etançons by a French officer, M. de Castelnau, with the two Gaspards of St. Christophe. In 1885 it was reached without guides by the very difficult E. ridge, by Herr Purtscheller of Salzburg, and the brothers Zsigmondy, of Vienna, one of the latter losing his life a few days later while trying a new route from the S.; and in 1885 it was also gained from the N.W. by Monsieur C. Verne, of Grenoble.

In 1888 the peak was scaled by an English lady, and in 1890 by a French rival. The *Pic Central* (13,025 ft.) has been ascended from La Grave. An easy and recommended excursion, for the enjoyment of fine scenery, may be made on the great Glacier de Lans, from which it is quite possible to descend either to Le Freney or to St. Christophe.]

On leaving La Grave the road leads abruptly to a turn in the valley which overlooks a very fine fall of the Romanche, all its waters being poured into a deep abyss. The road passes 2 galleries, of which the second (1968 ft. in length) is artificially lit, before reaching

**Villard d'Arène**, a wretched village; but for the geologist it has a very interesting section of granite or gneiss overlying limestone. The Romanche is here left to the rt., where it descends a long valley from its source in an ice-cave of the Glacier d'Arsine. At the head of that valley is the difficult *Col du Glacier Blanc* to Vallouise, and on its E. side a direct path by the grassy *Col d'Arsine* (7874 ft.), to Monestier. The road now ascends in zigzags to the

*Col du Lautaret*, on the ridge which divides the valley of the Romanche from that of the Guisanne. It is 6808 ft. above the sea; covered with the most beautiful pasturage, and one of the richest spots in Dauphiné for the botanist.

On the summit is a *Maison Hospitalière*, one of those founded by Humbert II. in the 11th cent.; and close to it a new **Hospice** (fair accommodation) erected in 1864. The view of the *Meije* and of other peaks, streaming with ice, is magnificent. To the N. is the *Col du Galibier*, a pass, lately converted into a carriage-road, leading to Valloire and St. Michel (see Rte. 158A). A little to the E. of the col is the fine peak of the *Roche du Grand Galibier* (10,636 ft.), accessible in 3½ hrs. from the hospice, and to the W. is the *Pic des Trois Evêchés* (10,137 ft.),

an easy climb of 4 hrs., from the hospice whence the *Pic de Combeynot* (10,378 ft.) to the S. may be gained in 3¼ hrs. All command glorious views on all sides.

The descent is steep to the sterile upper valley of the Guisanne, at *La Madeleine*; lower is the village of *Le Casset*, at the base of the Glacier du Casset; and 7 m. from the col are the

**Baths of Monestier**, 4898 ft. above the sea, with 2287 Inhab., and sulphureous springs. These waters have a temperature of 104° to 122°, and are both drunk and employed in baths: they are so abundant that they are employed to turn a mill.

[To the rt. is the *Col de l'Eychauda*, an easy pass from Monestier to Vallouise, with grand rocky scenery, and on the l. *Col de Buffère* to Névache, in the upper valley of the Clairée (a lovely spot), more directly accessible from Briançon by char-road.]

The view from Monestier is striking. The whole course of the Guisanne is seen to Briançon, where the forts of that frontier town are piled above each other; and beyond it a chain of lofty mountains, culminating in the *Rochebrune* (10,906 ft.).

The valley below Monestier exhibits cultivation; barley is grown, and the meadows, by irrigation, are very productive; and, after the naked and sterile rte. from Le Dauphin to Monestier, the appearance of trees is hailed as giving the highest charm to the scenery.

There are several villages, of which the principal are **La Salle**, **Chantemerle** (so named from the number of blackbirds that frequent it), and **St. Chaffrey**. The approach to Briançon is strikingly fine, its walls and forts rising above the town, to that on the *Mont Infernet* (7809 ft.).

**Briançon**, 3 hrs.' walk from Monestier, is a frontier fortress with gates and regular defences, and a



very strong position at the junction of 3 valleys, and at a height of 4334 ft. It guards the road into France by the pass of the Mont Genève and valley of the Durance. Rly. to Gap and Marseilles (HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE, Rte. 139). A diligence plies daily to and from Oulx on the Mont Cenis Rly. (Rte. 161).

Briançon is a city of high antiquity. Pliny attributed its foundation to the Greeks, who were driven from the borders of the Lake of Como; others have given its foundation to Bellocesus or Brennus. Ammianus Marcellinus calls it *Virgantia Castellum*, other writers *Brigantio* or *Brigantium*. It held a Roman garrison. St. Ambrose was here on his way to Vienne in Dauphiné, when he heard of the death (391) of the Emperor Valentinian II., whom he was going to baptize.

This little city is one of the smallest in France, having only 5439 Inhab. The streets are narrow and steep, but many of the houses are well built. It boasts of a Grande Place, but its church is not worth a visit, though very conspicuous when approaching from Monestier.

The town itself is strong from its position and walls, but the seven forts which guard it render it almost impregnable. Between the city and these forts there is a bridge over the deep bed of the Durance, which foams beneath precipices. It is of bold construction, a single arch of 131 ft. span, 184 ft. above the torrent, and was built in 1734, under the direction of the Maréchal d'Asfeld. The fort called the *Pointe du Jour* is 1375 ft. above the town; 2000 ft. above it, on the *Mont Infernet*, 7809 ft. above the sea, another fort has been constructed. Several more forts are planned or in construction, and fine roads have been made connecting them with the town.

Travellers must on no account use sketch- or note-books in the vicinity

of the forts, and be careful to be provided with passports.

See HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE.

## ROUTE 160.

BRIANÇON TO LA GRAVE, BY VAL-LOUISE, LA BÉRARDE, AND THE GLACIER PASSES.

This work does not profess to give a complete account of the recesses of the Dauphiné Alps, for which the traveller must be referred to the work specially framed for glacier explorers—MM. Coolidge, Duhamel, and Perrin's *Guide du Haut Dauphiné* (Grenoble 1887, supplement issued in 1890). All that is sought here is to direct further attention to their magnificent scenery. Nothing but the want of decent accommodation has hitherto prevented travellers exploring a group of snowy Alps ranking next in height and importance to the Bernese Oberland. Since the creation of a Tourists' Society at Grenoble, and of a French Alpine Club, with local sections at Grenoble, Briançon, and Gap, much has been done to facilitate travel, and the opening of the railway to Briançon will probably attract travellers to the district.

It must, however, be admitted that though the peaks are equal in their forms to any in the Alps, and the glaciers are rivalled only in a few of the great groups of the Central Alps, the scenery of many of the valleys is singularly dreary and desolate, and on this account the Dauphiné Alps can never expect to become a popular resort.

The best approach to the higher peaks is by Bourg d'Oisans and Vénosc on the W. (Rte. 159), or by *Val-louise* on the S.E. side.

From the Argentière-la-Bessée Stat., on the rly. to Gap, a good road leads up a fertile and picturesque open valley in 1½ hrs. (6¼ m.) to

**Ville Vallouise** (3773 ft.). Another road, somewhat shorter, but only fit for chars, leaves the high road at Prelles, and skirts the hillside above the junction of the Gyronde and Durance, gaining from the corner a fine glimpse of the Pelvoux.

*Ville Vallouise.* The 15th cent. ch. is remarkable, and has a fine 16th cent. porch.

[At Ville Vallouise the Val d'Entraigues opens W., leading by high passes to Val Gaudemar, of which the most used is the

*Col du Sellar.* The last chalets are at Entraigues, and the final ascent is over the glacier, or up steep granite rocks on its rt. The descent into the valley of the Severaisse is by glacier and moraine. Rough inn at the highest hamlet, *Le Clot*; fair quarters at *La Chapelle*, the chief village in the valley. Hence to Champoléon and Corps (see HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE, Rtes. 134 and 139). The double col of the *Pas de la Cavale* leads direct from Vallouise to Champoléon.

The *Col de la Pilatte* is a difficult pass to La Bérarde, up a steep couloir and over the Gl. de la Pilatte at the foot of *Les Bans* (11,979 ft.), a fine peak somewhat difficult of access.]

A good char-road leads past several villages in 3 m. to **Les Claux**, where the Vallouise branches l. to the hamlet of *Ailefroide* and Mt. Pelvoux, rt. to Monestier by the *Col de l'Eychauda* (7970 ft.). This is an easy pass of 5 hrs. by a bridle-path, and has grand rock scenery and magnificent views of Mont Pelvoux.

The situation of *Les Claux* is very picturesque. The valley is rich and smiling, numerous cascades burst from the rocks, and the noble ice-crowned cliffs of Mt. Pelvoux close the view.

Beyond the village, the mule-path crosses the stream to the rt. bank, and ascends steadily through a very grand and well-wooded defile (a singular feature in these Alps) to (1¼ hr.) the chalets of **Ailefroide**, at the

base of the Pelvoux and the junction of the Vallon de Celse Nière (leading to the Col du Sélé) and the Combe de St. Pierre, leading to the Pré de Madame Carle.

[*Col du Sélé* (10,837 ft.) to La Bérarde, about 8 hrs.' actual walking. From Ailefroide up the Combe de Celse Nière to the Glacier du Sélé at its head. Then by débris and rocks on the N. bank, and higher up by the glacier. Superb view in the descent of the great W. precipice of the Ailefroide and its crest of jagged pinnacles. The ice-fall of the Glacier de la Pilatte is passed by slopes of snow and débris on the W. bank. The highest point of the *Crête des Bœufs Rouges* (11,333 ft.), S. of the col (reached in 1½ hr.), has a fine view. From the head of this valley Mr. Coolidge, in 1870, made the first ascent of the *Ailefroide* (12,989 ft.), the third highest peak of the group.

The *Mont Pelvoux* (12,973 ft.), first ascended 1828, by the French engineers under Commandant Durand, has been likened to a sugar-loaf, with the top cut off, hollowed out, and filled with snow. From the rim rise 3 points, and below it the mountain sides are almost everywhere precipitous. From *Ailefroide*, 2½ hrs. from Ville Vallouise, where the ascent properly begins, a traveller sees above him some 7000 ft. of apparently vertical cliffs.

To gain the summit it is necessary to pass the night at the *Refuge Puiseux*, a cave arranged by the French Alpine Club, 2 hrs. above Ailefroide and 7313 ft. above the sea. Thence the mountain slopes are ascended to the small Glacier du Clot de l'Homme (it can be crossed and rocks on its W. ascended, but this route is longer than that next described). Mr. Tuckett (in 1862) climbed a couloir to the E. of it, then the higher part of the glacier, and by a gully on the rt. to the upper snow-slopes, and the summit, which is reached in 5 hrs. from the Refuge. The view is most magnificent, extending to Monte Rosa and



Mt. Blanc, while the Ailefroide close by, and the Monte Viso, 40 m. off, are grand features of the prospect.

In the *Combe de Celse Nière* is the cave called the *Balme Chapelu*, or *Beaume des Vaudois*, where the Protestants of Vallouise were destroyed at the time of the Vaudois persecutions in 1488. It is now nearly blocked up by rocks which have fallen.]

The path, faintly marked, but not very rough, ascends steadily through fine savage scenery until it reaches the edge of the *Pré de Madame Carle* (a real person who owned this and other pasturages in the Vallouise in the 16th cent.), a plain at least a mile long, entirely strewn with boulders brought down by the torrents which fall from the impending precipices. In front is seen the dirty snout of the well-named Glacier Noir. On the rt. the diminished skirts of the Glacier Blanc hang over a breach in the mountain walls. The *Crête de l'Encula*, or *Grande Sagne* (12,399 ft.), towers opposite, while to the E. rises the serrated range of *Seguret Foran* (11,375 ft.).

Among a few stunted firs, the French Alpine Club constructed a roomy stone cabin, the *Refuge Cézanne*, 1¼ hr. above Ailefroide. This was a convenient starting-place for mountaineers, at the junction of many superb glacier passes, but it has been allowed to fall into ruin.

The chief of these passes are

a. The *Col de la Temple* to La Bérarde, an easy glacier pass of 10,771 ft., between the Pic Coolidge and the Ailefroide. The Glacier Noir at the base of Mont Pelvoux is crossed. Then the higher fields of the glacier are traversed to the upper plateau, from which a couloir and rocks are climbed to the col. Hence the view of the savage cliffs of the Ecrins and Pelvoux, is superb. The descent is by the Glacier de la Temple, and its moraine, in 2 hrs. to the Club hut near the Carrelet, at the opening of the glen into the *Combe de la Pilatte*, 1 hr. above *La Bérarde*.

b. The *Col de la Coste Rouge* (10,342 ft.) is a shorter and lower pass from the Glacier Noir to La Bérarde by the Glacier de la Coste Rouge, long known to the people of the country, which has unaccountably fallen into disuse. It is the easiest of all the passes across this range.

c. The *Col des Ecrins* (11,205 ft.). The ascent is up the Glacier Blanc, and under the N. face of the Ecrins. It is better taken from La Bérarde, and has one serious obstacle—a snow couloir on the W., of more than 1000 ft. of vertical height, the rocks to the rt. of which can, however, be climbed. From the foot of the Glacier Blanc the lower rocks of the Encula are climbed. The glacier is then crossed to the N. bank, where the ascent is continued past the club hut called *Refuge Tuckett* (whence in 4 hrs. the beautiful *Montagne des Agneaux*, 12,008 ft., is best reached), and by the side of an ice-fall along slopes of snow and débris. A higher reach of the glacier leads to the col, which commands a noble view of the topmost crags and séracs of the *Pointe des Ecrins*. On the other side is the steep couloir. The Glacier de la Bonne Pierre below it presents no unusual difficulties, and the traveller descends by it, and along its moraine to the Vallon des Etançons, at a point 1 m. N. of La Bérarde.

The *Pointe des Ecrins* (13,462 ft.), the *Montagne d'Oursine* of Bourcet, was first ascended, 1864, from the Col des Ecrins, by Messrs. Moore, Walker, and Whymper. It is generally best to ascend by the face to a point on the arête rather E. of the summit, and then along the final ridge. It is now more usually ascended from the S. by rocks and snow from the Col des Avalanches.

d. The *Col Emile Pic* (10,490 ft.) is an easy and beautiful glacier pass from the Glacier Blanc to La Grave by the Glacier de la Plate des Agneaux.

e. *Col du Glacier Blanc* to La Grave, a noble glacier pass (10,854 ft.), but difficult, particularly the descent of formidably steep and unstable rocks

to the Glacier d'Arsine on the N. side. It is fit only for active mountaineers.

**La Bérarde** consists of a few rude houses, in a singularly savage situation, and is the highest hamlet (5702 ft.) in the valley of St. Christophe. This is a centre for innumerable excursions for fair mountaineers. More glacier excursions can be made from La Bérarde than from any other village in the Alps, *not* even excepting Zermatt, and the opening in 1887 of the excellent little *Chalet Hotel de la Société des Touristes du Dauphiné* has greatly facilitated climbing in the district.

The passes to the N. (La Grave) have been already described (Rte. 159). To the S., beside the rtes. to *Vallouise* just mentioned, it is possible to pass to the Val Gaudemar by the *Col du Says* (10,289 ft.), *Col du Chardon* (10,145 ft.) or *Col des Rouies* (10,827 ft.), none of which offer any unusual difficulty. From the latter pass it is possible to reach in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. the *Sommet des Rouies* (11,923 ft.), which commands a very grand and extensive view on all sides, and is strongly recommended as a day's excursion from La Bérarde.

The *Pic Coolidge* (12,323 ft.), between the *Ecrins* and the *Ailefroide*, is not a difficult ascent, and is the point from which the best view of the basin of the Glacier Noir, with its magnificent rampart of peaks, is obtained. Its neighbour, the *Fifre* (12,238 ft.), or the more distant *Les Bans* (11,979 ft.), offer interesting scrambles to the mountaineer.

An interesting pass (*Col de la Lavey*) leads by the Gl. du Chardon, S. of *Tête de l'Étret* (11,690 ft., accessible from the pass), to the Combe de la Lavey and St. Christophe.

A good excursion from La Bérarde is the ascent of the highest point of *Montagne de Clot Châtel* (11,729 ft.) from the Glacier du Chardon, returning to La Bérarde by the glacier and village of Les Etages.

On the N. side of the valley the *Plaret* (11,713 ft.), and *Tête de la Gan-*

*dolière* (11,644 ft.), are easy of access, and command gorgeous views.

St. Christophe may be reached through the Val des Etançons, by a pass (*Brèche du Râteau*) between the Râteau and Tête du Replat and the Glacier de la Selle—a pleasant excursion.

The *Grande Ruine* (12,317 ft.). To ascend the Grande Ruine it is best if coming from La Bérarde over the Col de la Casse Déserte, to descend from it and pass round the mountain, and attack it from the N. The Meije appears to especial advantage from this peak.

The *Râteau* (12,317 ft.) may be climbed from the Val des Etançons by its S. ridge.

The *Meije* (13,081 ft.), a difficult climb, and the *Ecrins* (13,462 ft.) are both now usually ascended from the S., a night being spent out in one or other of the Club huts.

There are but few **Excursions** from La Bérarde for ordinary tourists, and those not willing to undergo great fatigue. Such persons should not, however, fail to walk an hour or two up the *Vallon des Etançons* to get a view of the wonderful S. wall of the Meije.

The Glaciers de la Bonnepierre and de la Pilatte are within range of an easy walk; there is especially a grassy spot (the Carrelet) at the junction of the Combe du Chardon and Combe de la Pilatte, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from La Bérarde, whence a splendid view of the precipices of the Ailefroide (12,989 ft.) can be gained.

A path was constructed by the French Alpine Club in 1878 up the *Tête de la Maye* (8881 ft.) (top easily reached in 2 hrs. from La Bérarde), the Gorner Grat of the district, the view from which includes all the chief summits of the Dauphiné group.

A most tempting rte. for a mountaineer who has reached La Bérarde by one of the passes from the side of Ville Vallouise is the *Brèche de la Meije* (11,054 ft.). This fine glacier



## ROUTE 161.

BRIANÇON TO SUSA.—PASS OF THE  
MONT GENÈVRE.

Miles.

		<b>Briançon.</b>
6 $\frac{3}{4}$	.	<b>Mont Genève.</b>
11 $\frac{3}{4}$	.	<b>Césanne.</b>
16 $\frac{3}{4}$	.	<b>Oulx.</b>

The Mt. Genève is one of the oldest passes of the Alps. The great valley of the Durance offers a natural entrance into the mountains, and the two easiest passes leading out of it, the Mont Genève and the Col de l'Argentière, have been from early times, and still are, used in preference to any other Alpine passes by the Piedmontese who migrate from their homes to Provence. Excellent carriage-road.

It is usually stated by historians, and there seems in this case to be good reasons for the belief, that this is the pass opened by Pompey, and subsequently improved by the tribal chieftain Julius Cottius, under Augustus. It was constantly used by the Romans and in mediæval times.

Up to the beginning of this cent. it was commonly regarded as the Pass of Hannibal, but the works of Brockedon and Arnold, in England, followed by Mommsen, in Germany, caused a change of opinion in favour of the Little St. Bernard. In the last few years, however, there has been a very strong reaction among continental scholars in favour of the Mont Genève, and the arguments against the possibility of reconciling the narratives of Polybius and Livy with any rte. leading into Val d'Aosta have been restated with great force. For a discussion of the question see *Alpine Journal*, Nos. 80 and 93, where Mr. D. Freshfield argues against the northern passes and in favour of a pass from the Durance basin, expressing his personal preference for the Col de l'Argentière.

On leaving Briançon for the Mont Genève, the narrow valley of the

pass, discovered in 1864, leads immediately under the great W. pinnacle of the Meije. This was conquered from the Glacier des Etançons in 1877 by M. de Castelnau with two local guides, and is one of the longest and most severe rock-climbs in the Alps. In 1885 a second way by the E. ridge was found to the summit by some daring Austrian climbers, one of whom, Dr. Emil Zsigmondy, perished a few days after in another attempt on the S. face of the peak.

The **Vallon des Etançons**, through which the traveller ascends from La Bérarde, is stony and desolate, and but for the remarkable view of the Meije, which on the side from which it has been climbed appears absolutely perpendicular, would be very wearisome. An easy glacier leads to the low rocky curtain uniting the Meije and the Râteau. Either by rocks or snow this is easily climbed from the S., but the N. face, of about equal height, and usually easy, becomes late in the season a bare ice-wall. The glacier which falls towards La Grave is too steep and broken to be traversed, and a way has to be found down the Enfethores rocks on its W. side. From the pass there is a superb view S. of the peaks surrounding La Bérarde, and N. over the Tarentaise to Mt. Blanc. From La Bérarde to La Grave is a walk of 9 to 10 hrs. in favourable circumstances.

The *Col du Clot des Cavales* (10,263 ft.), the *Col de la Casse Déserte* (11,516 ft.), and the *Brèche de Charrière* (10,699 ft.) are gaps through which mountaineers pass to the Lautaret road from the Vallon des Etançons. The first-named pass is the easiest and shortest way from La Bérarde to La Grave (8 to 9 hrs.). The second of these passes can be easily combined with the ascent of the *Grande Ruine* (12,317 ft.), one of the finest points of view in the district.

Durance is ascended for 2 m. as far as *La Vachette*, a hamlet at the foot of the pass. Here, on the l., opens the *Val de Névache*, a fine, large, and productive valley, a striking contrast to the valley of the Guisanne. It is also called the *Val des Prés*, from its rich meadows. Its mountains are clothed with forests; through it the river *Clairée*, springing from the glaciers of the *Mont Thabor*, flows for 8 leagues, and then loses its name in a less considerable torrent—the *Durance*, which has scarcely run 2 leagues from its source in the *Mont Genève*.

From *Plampinet* in this valley the low pass of the *Col des Echelles* (5873 ft.) leads in 3 hrs. to *Bardonnèche*, near the entrance of the *Mont Cenis Tunnel* (Rte. 154). From the head of the valley, the *Col de Buffère* leads to *Monestier*, the *Col des Rochilles* and the *Col de l'Aiguille Noire* to *Valloire*, and many passes to the foot of the *Mont Thabor*, the rte. up which from the S. may thus be re-joined (Rte. 154).]

The ascent commences through a pine-forest, and by a series of admirably constructed zigzags, leads the traveller to the col, presenting at every turn a variety in the views of *Briançon* and its forts, the valleys of the *Durance* and *Névache*, and the surrounding mountains. The old road continued by the pine-forests up the l. bank of the stream, and pedestrians still use it, as it is much the shorter.

The summit of the pass is a plain, remarkable for the culture of barley at a height of 6102 ft. above the sea, and there are fine pasturages on the slopes of the neighbouring mountains. Here is a *Hospice*, founded in the 13th cent., and restored by the late *Abbé Aucel* (d. 1863). It enjoys an income of 15,000*l.*, of which 6000*l.* are furnished by the State, and it expends the sum in relief. 200 persons sometimes pass in a day. Not far from it is a village called

**Bourg Mont Genève**, 7 m. from

*Briançon*, inhabited all the year, and containing the French *douane*. In its neighbourhood, and almost from a common source, 2 rivers rise—the *Durance*, which flows into France and the Mediterranean, and the *Dora Susina* or *Dora Riparia*, which flows into the *Po* and the *Adriatic*.

For a short time their gentle murmurs mingle on the height—

'Adieu, ma sœur, la Durance,  
Nous nous séparons sur ce mont;  
Tu vas ravager la Provence,  
Moi féconder le Piémont.'

[From the pass the *Mont Chaberton* (10,286 ft.) can be ascended in 3½ or 4 hrs., and commands a very extensive panorama. The *Col des Trois Frères Mineurs* leads to *Plampinet*, and the *Col du Gondran* to *Cervièrès* on the rte. of the *Col d'Izouard* (Rte. 163).]

An obelisk, erected to commemorate the construction, in 1802–7, of this fine road over the Alps, is 60 ft. high, and had on its pedestal inscriptions to record the event: these the *Bourbons* removed. Just beyond the obelisk is the frontier, defended by a drawbridge and fortifications, then the hamlet of *Clavières* (Italian custom-house).

On leaving the plateau of the col there is a series of zigzags, made in the loose soil under *Mont Chaberton* (10,286 ft.), high above the course of the *Dora*, until the road reaches the bed of the river and crosses it about 2 m. from *Césanne*, where the torrent falls into the larger stream of the *Dora Riparia*, descending from the lofty mountains which bound the Protestant valleys of *Piedmont*.

[Pedestrians may save much by taking a short cut from *Clavières* through the gorge—perhaps that which gave *Hannibal* so much trouble—rejoining the carriage-road where it crosses the torrent.]

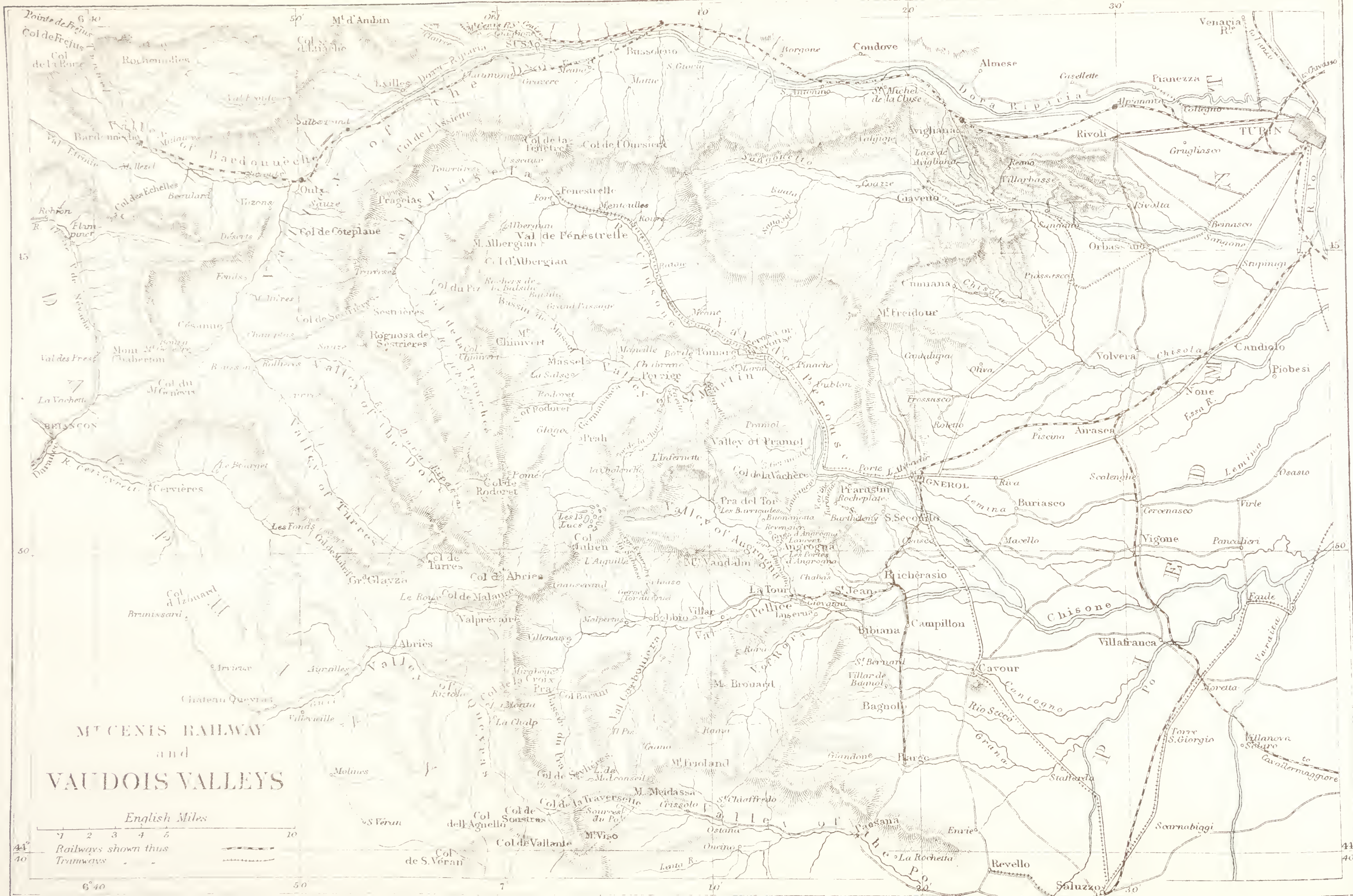
11¼ m. **Césanne** (4464 ft.), a large red-roofed village, at the junction of the road from the *Col de Sestrières*, is not more than 4 hrs.' walk from *Briançon*.

[Hence several passes lead to











Abriès, as well as to Rodoretto and Prali, in each case an easy day's walk (Rte. 163).]

Below Césanne, the road lies straight down the valley to Susa. The first important village is

16 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Oulx**, on the Mont Cenis Rly. (Rte. 154).

## ROUTE 162.

BRIANÇON TO PIGNEROL, BY THE COL DE SESTRIÈRES, FÉNESTRELLE, PÉROUSE, AND THE VAUDOIS VALLEYS<sup>1</sup>.

Miles.

		<b>Briançon</b>
11 $\frac{3}{4}$	. . .	<b>Césanne</b>
25 $\frac{1}{2}$	. . .	<b>Pragelas</b>
32 $\frac{1}{4}$	. . .	<b>Fénestrelle</b>
41 $\frac{3}{4}$	. . .	<b>Pérouse</b>
52 $\frac{3}{4}$	. . .	<b>Pignerol</b>

The *Inns* between Briançon and Pignerol are poor. As far as Césanne this is the same rte. as that described in Rte. 161.

It is 9 hrs.' walking from Césanne to Pérouse.

The road made by Napoleon, from Césanne into Italy, is more direct than that by Turin. Soon after leaving Césanne it crosses the Dora, and immediately commences the ascent to the col, by a series of zigzags like that of the descent from the Mont Genève; the lengthened snake-like course of the one can be seen from the other across the valley. The traveller soon reaches the hamlet of **Champlas**, and continues to ascend over fine pasturages, until he reaches the

2 $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. *Col de Sestrières* (6660 ft.) and chalets on a plain nearly 2 m. long. The Baraccone on the Col offers

fair sleeping quarters. The *Rognosa de Sestrières* (11,052 ft.) commanding a noble view, may be climbed in 3 hrs. Towards the E. the view of the *Val Pragelas*, and the *Mont Albergian* is wild and fine. In descending, the road leads down by zigzags to the banks of the Chisone, and to the first village, **Sestrières**, and thence to the village of

1 $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. **Les Traverses**. [Hence the *Cols de Bourget* and *de Côteplane* lead to Oulx, and the *Col du Piz* to the head of the valley of St. Martin, this last pass being the one by which the Vaudois in 1689 at last regained their native valleys.] The broad channel of the river beneath the dark pine-forest opposite *Pragelas*, a larger village below Les Traverses, gives rather an appearance of sterility to the valley, which is generally known by the name of Chisone, but among its inhabitants the upper part above the fort of Fénestrelle is called Val Pragelas; below the fort it is often called Val de Pérouse.

2 hrs. 40 min. **Fénestrelle**, a village of 1238 Inhab. The *fort of Fénestrelle* is a place of great strength, which guards the approach to Piedmont. It rises in terraces from the defile formed by the base of the Mont Albergian, and commands the l. bank of the torrent by its immense ranges of fortifications. The highest battery is accessible through a gallery which contains 3600 steps. On the summit is a basin covered with verdure, called *Le Fré de Catinat*, from that general having encamped there.

These works have been in progress of construction by the Sardinian Government since 1816. They succeeded an older fortress in 5 tiers, blown up by the army of the French Republic. The 3 detached forts—about 1 m. distant from the town, called St. Charles, Quatre Dents, and des Vallées—command the approaches. A 4th battery, called Charles Albert, sweeps the high road. On the base of the Albergian

<sup>1</sup> For further details as to all places, passes, and peaks on the Piedmontese side of the Alps, or on or near the crest of the Alpine chain, described in all the following Rtes. of this book, reference may be made to vol. i. of Signori Martelli and Vaccarone's admirable *Guida delle Alpi Occidentali*.

are remains of older forts built by the French when this country belonged to them (till the Treaty of Utrecht, 1713) to defend the pass in the opposite direction. The village of Fénestrelle lies in the middle of the defile. The fort is used as a military prison. It is the scene of M. Saintine's tale of *Picciola*, and Xavier de Maistre, when a prisoner here, wrote his *Voyage autour de ma Chambre*.

[From Fénestrelle there is a very pretty pass, by the *Col de la Fenêtre*, in 5 hrs. to Susa. From the top, which is carpeted with Alpine flowers, is a magnificent view over the Dora, in which the Rochemelon is a striking object for the last hr. or two of rugged descent. The *Col de l'Assietta* leads to Salbertrand and is more circuitous, though of great historical interest (Rte. 154). The *Col d'Albergian* leads to the head of the valley of St. Martin.]

From Fénestrelle to Pignerol (steam tramway twice a day in about 2 hrs.) there is little variety in the scenery: the valley is generally narrow; but where there is cultivation, corn and vines abound. The mulberry for the silkworm flourishes, and fruit and forest trees luxuriate, as they almost always do on the side of Piedmont. The Vaudois were formerly not permitted out of the valleys of Rora, Luserna, St. Martin, and Angrogna; but the more liberal policy of the Government since 1848 has removed this restriction, though there are not now many Vaudois in the Chisone valley, save at San German, not far from Pignerol.

Below Fénestrelle, the road passes through numerous villages and hamlets—**Mentoulles, Roure, Meano**, and their hamlets—and to the l. the remains of the *castle of Bec Dauphin* (which marked the frontier of Dauphiné till, by the Treaty of Utrecht, 1713, this valley, with Exilles and the Varaita valley, were exchanged for that of *Barcelonnette*) before reaching

3 hrs. 10 min. **Pérouse** or **Pérosa Argentina**. This is the principal town (2242 Inhab.) in the Chisone valley, and contains silk manufactories. It is situated directly opposite the mouth of the Vallée de St. Martin, one of the most interesting of the Protestant valleys.

Steam tramway 7 times a day in about 1½ hr.

[**Excursions.**—Up the valley of St. Martin to *Le Perrier* or *Perrero* and the famous *Balsille*. A good pedestrian may also include the valleys of *Rodoret* and *Prali*. These, like Angrogna (Rte. 163), are the classic ground of the Vaudois. From Pérouse to the Balsille and back, may be accomplished easily in a day.

From Pérouse take a carriage to Le Perrier. The road is tolerable, and the distance ought to be done in 1½ hr. The scenery is grander than that of Val Angrogna, though not so picturesque. After crossing the Chisone by a fine bridge at a silk factory, **Pomaret**, situated at the mouth of the valley of St. Martin, is passed on the rt. (From 1704 to 1708 the valley of St. Martin was a Republic under the protection of the King of France.) The village is inhabited by Vaudois, and is one of their principal stations. It contains a good ch., hospital, high school, and 2 primary schools. The people, though poor, are intelligent and industrious. The vineyards and fields are models of neatness; but the streets and houses, like all those in these regions, are filthy. ½ hr. up the glen is a gorge, formed by projecting cliffs, between which the torrent rushes in sheets of foam. Farther up the valley opens, and the banks of the stream are here and there studded with prosperous-looking hamlets and isolated houses, in some cases large and imposing.

**Le Perrier** is a village of 528 Inhab. (mainly Roman Catholics), beautifully situated on the l. bank of the river. Its houses are sub-



stantial, but its streets narrow. It contains a fine new *Vaudois Church* and parsonage, and its people are obliging and intelligent. A guide should be taken from this place. Hence the road follows the l. bank of the stream for  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr., with a grand view in front. A bridge is then crossed, and the glen forks; the branch on the l. is called Val Germanasca or de Prali, a branch of which is the glen of Rodoret, that on the rt. **St. Martin**. We take the latter (henceforth there is only a mule-path), ascending rapidly and keeping the rt. bank. On the opposite wooded slope of the mountain is seen the bright little Vaudois ch. and hamlet of **Maneille** (*Maniglia*). This was formerly the capital of the parish and residence of the pastor, but recently it has been joined to Perrier, and the parish is now called **Maneille-Perrier**.

Crossing the stream by a stone bridge, the path enters a magnificent ravine, through which it winds, until, in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr., the glen opens and reveals a little basin formed by the junction of two valleys, that on the l. **Salse**, that on the rt. **Massel**. The bottom is carpeted with green meadows, and the sides clothed with foliage; overhead is a circle of dark, snow-capped mountains. The path here forks; the rt. leads high up round the shoulder of the mountain into the upper valley, and is the shortest rte. to the Balsille. [The l. descends, crosses a bridge, and leads into the glen of Salse. A branch from the latter turns to the rt., descends through thickets, crosses the stream of Salse by a wooden foot-bridge, and leads up to the hamlet of **Champ de Salse**, which is seen on the green slope away in front, and which is at present the residence of the pastor of Massel, who most courteously offers hospitality to foreign visitors.] We take the first path, and enter the glen of Massel. The Vaudois ch. and parsonage (the

latter ruined by a land-slip) are passed, and a magnificent view gained of the head of the glen, with a waterfall and lofty mountains behind.

$\frac{3}{4}$  hr. from the mouth of the glen is **Gros Passet**, a village built on a projecting rock, 200 ft. above the stream. It forms the natural outpost of the Balsille. The views from it are very grand. In 20 min. more is the hamlet of **Balsille** or *La Balsiglia* (4528 ft.) situated at the junction of the two upper branches of the glen. The stream is here crossed and the site of the fortress gained by a steep path. It stands in the fork of the valleys, from 400 to 500 ft. above the bed of the stream, and it must at one time have been all but impregnable. There are few remains visible; but the site is occupied by wretched houses. On the rt., across the stream, is the platform of *Chinivert*, where the enemy planted their cannon; and high up behind the fortress is the mountain peak to which the Vaudois retreated in the night.

On the Balsille the Vaudois entrenched themselves under Henri Arnaud. Here the little handful of brave men, not exceeding 600 or 700 struggled for their fatherland, and resisted, in May 1690, the united armies of France and Savoy, amounting (according to authentic documents) to about 4000 men. When the latter, however, found it necessary to bring up artillery, which was accomplished with excessive difficulty, the heroic Vaudois, foreseeing that against the cannon they could not hold their position, retreated during the night without losing a man; and the following day, their sovereign, the Duke of Savoy, having quarrelled with his allies, agreed to restore them to their valleys and their hearths.

Above the Balsille are many cataracts, ravines, and mountains: from the head of the valley the *Col du Piz* leads to Pragelas in the

Val Chisone. From Pérouse to Pragelas, about 9 hrs. will be required, and all who are able should mount at least to its summit, as it is the last link in the chain of Alpine passes by which Henri Arnaud and his men regained their native valleys—the *Glorieuse Rentrée* of 1689.

Another passage between the valleys of St. Martin and Chisone is the *Col d'Albergian* (mule track), which leads from the Balsille and the wild alps above it to Fénestrelle (8 hrs. from Pérouse).

The *Monte Albergian* (9974 ft.) can be easily ascended in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the col, and commands a fine view.

The S.W. branch of the Val St. Martin is called the **Val Germanasca**. This in its turn is divided into 2 branches, the one leading to *Rodoret*, the other to *Prali*. From the first there is the *Col della Valletta* to the head of the valley of the Chisone, and the *Col de Rodoret* to Césanne by the valley of the Dora Riparia (Rte. 161). (From the latter col the *Punta Vergia* (9810 ft.)—view very extensive and remarkable—can be gained in  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr.: while the col, when combined with the *Col La Mayt*, is a good rte., but a fairly long day, from the valley of St. Martin to Abriès). From Prali it is possible to reach Césanne by the *Col de la Longia*, or Abriès (Rte. 163) by the *Col d'Abriès*.

There are passes from Le Perrier and the lower part of the valley of St. Martin to *Pra del Tor*, in the Val Angrogna, and thence to La Tour de Luserne. The most direct of these—the *Infernetto*—is high, rough, and long. A fine rte. for good walkers is to cross from Prali by the Treize Lacs and over the *Punta Cournour* (9410 ft.), descending thence into the Val Angrogna by the *Col de la Chalanche* or de Rous and the *Sella Vecchia* chalets, or to Bobbio by the *Col Julien* rte., which is the frequented path from the Germanasca to the Pellice valley.]

On the road from Pérouse to Pignerol several villages are passed, in

one of which, **Villar Perosa**, is a large R. Catholic ch.

**S. Germano** has a large Protestant ch. The manager of the cotton-mill here receives boarders during the summer. Opposite this are large quarries, whence stone is sent to Turin. To the rt. is the little valley which leads to **Pramol**; still farther down is the *Church of Prarustin*, where the valley widens, and the road enters the plain, and passes through the hamlets of *Porte* and *Abbadia*, to gain

**Pignerol**, (Ital. *Pinerolo*), 17,039 Inhab., a bishop's see since 1749, and a sub-prefecture. It is also a garrison town, and has a cavalry-school. The old town on the hill of S. Maurizio was once a strong fortress, built in 1318, the church still dominating the city. The new town has beautiful public gardens, and contains cotton, wool, and silk manufactories.

The *Convent of St. Francis* (originally founded in 1064, mostly destroyed 1639 by the French) is near the city. It is partly ancient, and its church contains monuments to ancestors of the royal house of Savoy. The *Cathedral ch. of St. Donatus* is 11th cent.

On the hill of *St. Brigide* are ruins of a chapel and of the *citadel*, in which 'The Man in the Iron Mask' was shut up in 1681 and a few following years, as the town was in the hands of the French from 1630 to 1706. Near the Town-hall (*Palazzo di Città*) are the *Theatre* and a *College*. Lodgings and villas can be hired, and there is a good and cheap market.

**Railway** to Turin, 23 m.; 5 trains a day in 1 hr. 10 min.; the stations are Riva, Piscina, Airasca. None, Candiolo, Nichellino, and Sangone.

*Railway* to La Tour ( $\frac{3}{4}$  hr.), and *steam tramway* to Saluzzo (2 hrs.) as well as to Fénestrelle ( $4\frac{3}{4}$  hrs. up).



# ROUTE 163.

PIGNEROL TO MONT DAUPHIN, BY  
THE VAUDOIS VALLEYS AND  
THE COL DE LA CROIX.

	<b>Pignerol</b>	
10½ m.	<b>La Tour de Lu-</b>	
	<b>serne . . . .</b>	rail
6¼ m.	<b>Bobbio . . . .</b>	road
4½ hrs.	<b>Col de la Croix</b>	
		mule-path
2½ hrs.	<b>Abriès . . . .</b>	„
7½ m.	<b>Château Queyras</b>	
		road
23 m.	<b>Mont Dauphin.</b>	„

From Pignerol (Rte. 162) the rly. from Turin continues through San Secondo to La Tour de Luserne.

The country is rich and beautiful, covered with corn-fields, vineyards, and orchards. The views on the rt. up the wooded valleys to the snow-covered Alps are very grand.

**Briqueras Stat.**, or *Bricherasio*, is a clean and pretty village, with a fine castle belonging to the Count of Monte Vecchio. [Branch Rly. to (8 m.) Barge for Crissolo, Rte. 164.]

3¾ m. beyond Briqueras is the first Protestant community,

9¼ m. **Luserna S. Giovanni** (or *St. Jean*) **Stat.** Here a church was built while Piedmont was under the government of Napoleon. It is of a singular form—a horse-shoe—which is not favourable to the preacher.

1¼ m. beyond S. Giovanni, through a beautiful country, lies

10½ m. **La Tour de Luserne** (It. *Torre Pellice*) **Stat.**, the principal town (4602 Inhab.) (2100 ft.), of the Protestant communities, at the foot of Monte Vandalino and near the confluence of the Angrogna and Pellice. The town is thus now only 2 hrs. (33½ m.) by rail from Turin. The spacious but simple *Protestant Church*, at the W. end, was built 1850, with residences for the pastors and professors. General Beckwith contributed largely to it. This British

veteran who lost his leg at Waterloo, devoted 34 years of his life to improving the condition of the Waldenses. He lived among them, took a wife from among them, built churches and more than 100 schools for them, and lies buried (1862) in the churchyard here.

A *Hospital* was erected with funds raised chiefly in Holland, Russia, and England. It is now largely endowed by Sig. Pellegrin, a Vaudois, and a local cloth manufacturer. In 1837, by the aid of an anonymous gift, from England, of 5000*l.* confided to the late Rev. Dr. Gilly, a *College* was established for the education of young men for the Vaudois ministry, thus obviating the necessity which had before existed of sending them to Geneva or Lausanne. This institution is chiefly endowed by contributions from foreign countries, but owing in a great measure to the liberality, the exertions, and the zeal for the cause of the Vaudois, of General Beckwith and Dr. Gilly. In 1861 the superior classes were removed to Florence. There is an *Orphanage* for girls under English auspices—an admirable institution not equalled in Italy; also a Normal School. The picturesque parsonage is a memorial to Dr. Gilly. The large Roman Catholic church was built in 1844 by the late King Charles Albert.

Within ½ m. of La Tour a cotton-mill of 4 stories, moved by a water-power, belongs to Signor Mylius. The neighbourhood has several silk-winding mills, and the culture of the silk-worm occupies the women.

No part of the Alps surpasses the valleys of the Vaudois in richness and beauty in the lower valleys, and in wild and magnificent scenery in the defiles and mountains. Easy of access by railway from Turin, La Tour is reached in 2 hrs., through a country luxuriant in vegetation.

*History of the Waldensians.*—Recent historical research has cleared up many points about the early history of the Vaudois or Waldensians. It

now seems certain that they owe their origin and name to Peter Waldo of Lyons, who began to preach among the poor about 1177, and that the term was originally applied to their lay evangelists, and not to their hearers, the sacraments being received from the Roman priests as late as 1530. From Lyons they spread into the valleys of Dauphiné (some still exist in the Val de Freissinières and elsewhere), and this settlement was far more conservative than that in Lombardy, which displays more anti-Roman leanings, and later influenced the Hussite movement in Bohemia. It was most probably *not* from Dauphiné, but from Lombardy (as the views of the men of 'the valleys' agree far more nearly with those of the Lombard than of the French Waldensians) that the valley of the Pellice, and the neighbouring glens were occupied by Waldensians not earlier than 1300, while the fact that these valleys only come into prominence in the 15th cent. tends to show that it was thither that the Lombard Waldensians fled for refuge from persecutions in the plains.

In 1530 the Waldensians entered into communications with the Swiss Reformers, their letters giving a vivid picture of their organization and views, which were much less 'Protesant' than is generally believed. In 1532 the Synod of Angrogna (see below) adopted the main doctrines of the Swiss Protestants, and in 1571 the valleys swore to maintain the Calvinistic system. In 1630, the local preachers or 'barbes' were replaced by ministers from Geneva. Historically speaking, therefore, the Waldensians sprang from one of the numerous religious revivals of the Middle Ages, and since 1532 have been practically a branch of the Swiss Protestants. They number about 20,000 in 'the valleys' the upper and lower portions of which are inhabited by Roman Catholics.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The belief in their Apostolic or very ancient origin rests on 16th and 17th cent. legends, and is abandoned by the latest Wal-

La Tour forms the best centre for a series of excursions into the southern Vaudois valleys. The obliging landlord of the Hôtel de l'Ours will recommend a trustworthy guide, acquainted with the mountain paths, and, what is no less important, the spots noted in Waldensian history. It is the *religio loci* which enhances the natural attractions of every excursion in this region, but quite apart from it, the lovers of nature should not fail to visit these beautiful valleys from which the 'Alpine mountains cold' are absent, appearing only on the far horizon. The cream of the southern valleys may be seen in three days by moderate pedestrians.

The following plan is recommended.

*1st day.* Leave La Tour not later than 7 A.M.; descend the road towards S. Giovanni, then turn to the rt. across the fine stream of the Pellice, and ascend through picturesque orchards to

**Luserna**, a hamlet of S. Giovanni. The new château of the Count of Luserna occupies a commanding site on the rt. The old castle is in the centre of the village, and deserves a visit. Over the gate appears the motto of the ancient family. The

densian history, by a Waldensian, Signor Comba's *History of the Waldenses of Italy, from their origin to the Reformation* (English translation published in 1889). The best work on the origin of the Vaudois is a small treatise by Karl Müller, *Die Waldenser und ihre einzelnen Gruppen bis zum Anfang des 14. Jahrhunderts* (Gotha, 1886), while an admirable account (based on examination of all the extant MSS.) of Waldensian literature and literary forgeries, is given by Monsieur Edouard Montet, of Geneva, in his *Histoire Littéraire des Vaudois du Piémont* (Paris, 1885). The history of the French Waldensians has been little studied, but valuable information and documents will be found in a work by Mons. J. A. Chabrand, *Vaudois et Protestants des Alpes* (Grenoble, 1886), written from a Roman Catholic point of view. Monsieur A. de Rochas d'Aiglun's *Les Vallées Vaudoises* (with an excellent large scale map of the valleys) (Paris, 1881) is an interesting and careful study of the topography and military history of the struggles in the Waldensian valleys. For works relating to the *Glorieuse Rentrée* of 1689, see Rte. 155.



village is exclusively inhabited by Roman Catholics.

We leave by a narrow road which leads up the wild *ravine of Rora*. It has been constructed for the transport of flags from the great quarries high up on the mountains. It is in a wretched state of repair, and though wheeled vehicles may pass along it, the experiment cannot be recommended. About 15 min. above Luserna is a small chapel, where a branch road leads to the l., over the wooded ridge of Lusernette to Bibiana and Bagnol. An hr.'s walk up this road to the crest of the principal ridge will give some splendid views of the plain of Piedmont, and the villages along the foot of the mountains southward. Returning to the chapel we enter the ravine of Rora and the territory of the Vaudois. As we ascend, the valley narrows and the scenery becomes wild and grand. Up a little side valley on the rt., embosomed in trees, and not visible from the road, is the birthplace and home of *Gianavello*, one of the most noteworthy of Waldensian patriots. To visit it will take an extra  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. The cliffs over it on the W. formed the scene of some of his most daring exploits. The road winds up the glen, crosses the torrent by a good stone bridge, and, in about 1 hr. from Luserna, reaches a point where the valley branches. The branch on the l. is wider, but that on the rt. is deeper and wilder. At the head of the former are the flag quarries, and up it the road is carried; but there is little in it of interest to the tourist. A path from it leads over a high ridge to Bagnol. We cross the stream by a wooden bridge at a mill, and climb the rocky bank by a zigzag mule-track, having on the rt. the hamlet of *Fusines*, or *Fucine*, inhabited entirely by Vaudois. The ascent from this spot to Rora is steep and fatiguing, and will require an hour.

**Rora** is a most picturesque village, with a handsome Vaudois church.

A walk of  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. along the mountain side beyond it, toward the head of the valley, affords some magnificent views down to Luserna, and across the Italian plain. Rora was the scene of some of the most celebrated struggles of the Vaudois, and for a time their head-quarters. [Hence a path winds round the mountain side to the S., and leads past Costa and Rama to Crissolo in the Po valley, by the easy and beautiful *Colle delle Porte*, (7 hrs.).]

Half an hr.'s climb up a very steep mountain brings us from Rora to the summit of the great ridge, which separates the valleys of Rora and Luserna. The rocky peak called *Rocheberas* is its culminating point toward the W.; the tourist should not fail to ascend it. On it Gianavello and his little band of warriors were wont to take their stand, reconnoitre the enemy, and form their plans of attack or defence. It commands one of the finest and most interesting views in the country. Gianavello's house lies amid orchards at the foot of the cliffs. The valleys of Rora and Pellice are seen throughout their whole extent. The rugged ridge of *Vandolino*, so famous in Vaudois story; the lovely glen of Angrogna running far up behind it; the circle of mountains on the W., beginning at the noble peak of Monte Viso, and bounding the Vaudois territory; and the plain of Piedmont—all are visible. Turin is seen, and the proud Superga forms a prominent object on the horizon. A rapid descent of an hr., following a goat-track to the bottom of the ravine, and then crossing a bridge which spans the Pellice, brings us back to La Tour.

*2nd day.* Ascend the valley of Angrogna to Pra del Tor, and return by San Giovanni. To accomplish this with ease will require 7 or 8 hrs., and it is best to walk it.

Leaving La Tour, ascend the vine-clad height above the town, on which once stood the fortress that gave the town its name. Traces of

it are still visible. A short path may be taken from it direct into the valley of Angrogna, crossing the stream near a mill; but it is on the whole better to descend again to La Tour, after admiring the beautiful view, and examining the formation of the valleys. We pass the new *Roman Catholic Church*, finely situated at the base of the ridge on which La Tour stands, and just over the torrent of Angrogna. It was erected in 1844, and, at the special invitation of the pope, the king honoured the consecration with his presence.

Turning here sharply to the l. we enter the *Valley of Angrogna*, which for the richness and grandeur of its scenery is unsurpassed in these Alps. A large stream runs along its narrow bed, lashed to fury by projecting cliffs, and rocks that have fallen from the mountains. Here and there it is hidden beneath the spreading foliage of the walnut, willow, and weeping-ash. The lower slopes are terraced and clothed with grass or corn. Vineyards cover the terraces higher up, intermixed with noble groves of trees, in which the chestnut and walnut predominate. Higher still are forests of beech and oak; while along the summits of the mountains the hazel and birch grow luxuriantly among the jagged rocks. Picturesque houses and little hamlets appear here and there embowered in foliage.

An hr.'s quick walk from La Tour brings us to the neat ch. and parsonage of **San Lorenzo d'Angrogna**, a charming spot. The view from the balcony, or terraced garden, of the parsonage, is delightful. It commands the valley from the 'gates of the Pra' down to the broad plain. There is here a small **Rom. Cath. church**, and a convent, containing a solitary monk. A sharp zigzag walk of 45 min. up the wooded hill-side, brings us to **La Grotte**, a large cavern, difficult of access, and concealed amid rocks and bushes. It was one of the retreats of the persecuted Vaudois, in

which they were accustomed to meet for worship in troublous times; it was also the home of their pastors. It is not generally known to the guides of La Tour, and those who visit it should take a special guide from Angrogna.

A descent of 20 min. through groves and vineyards brings us to one of the most interesting spots in the valleys. There is nothing now to mark it, except a few large chestnuts surrounding a green terrace on the steep mountain side; but there is a farm-house not far distant, where the people will be found intelligent, and ready to give information. This is *Chanforans*, where the first Vaudois Synod was held on Sept. 12th, 1532. It was attended by the Reformers Farel and Olivetan. Here the Waldenses drew up a Confession of Faith in 17 Articles, and declared that their religion, as set forth in these Articles, was identical with that of the Reformers of Germany and Switzerland. Here too they resolved to publish a translation of the Holy Scriptures for the use of their people. The resolution was carried out in 1535 by the publication, at Neuchâtel, of the first French translation of the sacred volume, to which was prefixed a Preface, wherein for the first time the legend of the Apostolic origin of the Waldensians, hitherto hinted at, appears in its full-blown shape. There is an extant 14th cent. German translation of the Bible which has been asserted, but most improbably, to be due to the Waldensians; and it is certain that the 16th cent. MS. Waldensian translation of the Bible was made from the Vulgate text, and corrected by reference to the Greek text of an edition published by Erasmus.

The rugged path now descends rapidly to the banks of the stream. The valley contracts, and the rocks and cliffs in front seem to forbid farther progress. The celebrated **Barricade**, or outwork of the *Pra*, is reached in about 2½ hrs. from An-



grogna. A huge cliff rises over the narrow path, and above it tower again other rugged cliffs, up to the summit of the mountain. Many a tale of devotion and heroism is related of this spot. Again and again, during long years it was held by a few Vaudois against armies. The guide will point out a deep pool, at the foot of a cascade, called **The Pool of Sachette**, from a gigantic captain of papal troops, who was hurled into it by the Vaudois in 1488. When drawn out of the river his dead body was stretched upon an adjoining flat rock, and its length marked by lines which remained until obliterated a few years ago by the priest of La Tour. From the Barricade, which is sometimes called *Rochaille*, to Pra is an hr.'s good walking.

**Pra del Tor** (*Meadow of the Tower*) is a green, basin-shaped valley, encompassed by wild mountains, and having two or three glens radiating from it. A mountaineer may cross the *Col de la Chalanche*, or *de Rous*, leading hence by the 13 Lacs to Prali (the ascent of the *Punta Cournour*, 9410 ft., should on no account be omitted by any one crossing the pass; it involves a short extra climb of only 679 ft., and the view is very fine), or by the *Passo dell' Infernetto* to Le Perrier; but the only approach available for troops is that by the ravine of Angrogna. It was the sanctuary of the Vaudois during some of the most terrible of their persecutions, and it was defended by them with fierce determination. A schoolhouse has now been built in the Pra, and the Waldensian minister receives strangers so far as the means at his disposal permit.

In returning from the Pra a lower path may be taken, still following the l. bank of the stream, but keeping closer to the river. On reaching the mouth of the valley, about 1 m. from La Tour, a narrow zigzag path to the l. leads up (in 10 min.) to the old **Church of Chabas**, erected

1630. It stands on a commanding site, and is on the confines of the parishes of San Giovanni or St. Jean and Angrogna, though within the latter. Its origin was this: 'In ancient times the Vaudois were not permitted to have a church, or to hold any public religious service within the parish of St. Jean; they therefore erected this ch., and in it the Protestants of the parish were accustomed to meet until the new ch. of St. Jean was built. Chabas contains the tombs of several Englishmen of distinction, who, having died in Italy, could only obtain religious burial within the Vaudois territory. The traveller, if not too much fatigued, may walk round by St. Jean, and then up the main road to La Tour. This will require an hour extra.'—*J. L. P.*

*3rd day.* Explore the valley of Pellice, taking the carriage-road to Villar ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.), a large village on the l. bank of the river, and Bobbio and the interesting spots at the head of the glen and on the mountains around it, as described below, and returning to La Tour for the night. In the evening the *Vandalino* may be ascended to gain the magnificent view, and see another stronghold of the Vaudois.

The road from La Tour up the valley of the Pellice, widened for carriages as far as Bobbio, passes by the hamlet of **St. Marguerite**, near the rock of *Castellus*, on the face of which is a cavern, only to be reached by a rope, in which the Vaudois sheltered. The rock rises behind a Protestant church, restored by Mrs. Molyneux Williams, and containing a monument to Gen. Beckwith. Beyond this hamlet the scenery of the valley is rich and picturesque. About half way up the valley the large village of **Villar Pellice** is passed.

$2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from La Tour is **Bobbio** (2438 ft.). Above Bobbio there is only a mule-path, 7 hrs.' walk to Abriès.

[From Bobbio a pass N. over the

mountain by Serre Cruel and the *Col Julien* (8015 ft.) leads to *Prali* in 6 or 7 hrs. From La Tour this is a day's journey, and few excursions offer more striking scenes. Near the summit, 4 hrs.' hard walk from Bobbio, the Monte Viso, surmounting all the neighbouring ridges, towers up grandly. The descent towards Prali is long and fatiguing, 2 hrs.' hard walk. Prali consists of 4 separate hamlets; at the 3rd of which (*Ghigo*) strangers are received kindly at the pastor's house, if he has room. From Prali down the valley to *Perosa* by Perrero (Rte. 162) is 4 hrs. by a char-road. From Bobbio there are several passes—the *Sea Bianca* the most frequented—leading over in 7 hrs. or so to Crissolo in the valley of the Po.]

On leaving Bobbio a long wall is seen, an embankment made to guard the village from the inundations of the Pellice; it was built by a grant from Oliver Cromwell, during whose Protectorate one of those fearful calamities nearly destroyed Bobbio. A little beyond, the stream from the *Col Julien* is crossed, and the mountain ascent begins; soon, on bending to the l., the scenery becomes wild, though the bottom is still occupied by water-meadows shaded here and there by walnut and chestnut trees. The last view down the valley towards Bobbio is very fine.

After a long ascent (*taking care to always remain on the l. bank of the main valley stream*), by strangely situated hamlets, where rocks and trees of the wildest character make up a rapid succession of picturesque scenes, the path reaches an abrupt steep, over which is poured the torrent of the Pellice, and further progress seems forbidden. Up amidst fallen fragments, however, a path is found, threading a deep ravine, in which are the ruins of the fort of *Mirabouc*, built against the escarpments of the mountain, in a gorge which is utterly impassable on the opposite side; nor is there a path on the

side where the ruins of the fort stand that does not pass through its former gates. The fort was built in the 16th cent. by the duke of Savoy to oppose the French troops which were sent over the *Col de la Croix*, and was demolished after the wars of the French revolution, in 1796.

[A little before reaching *Mirabouc*, a valley towards the rt. leads to the village of *Abriès*, by the *Col de Malaure*, a shorter but more rugged path than that by the *Col de la Croix*. Close to the *Inn* at Pra, the track to the stony *Col d'Urina*, leading to *Abriès*, bears to the N.W.; the great advantage this pass has over its neighbours is that from it (in 2 hrs.) the ascent of the *Tête de Pelvas* or *Paravas* (9633 ft.) may be made, and a glorious view gained on every side. A direct descent may be made, so that there is no necessity for returning to the col.]

Above the *Mirabouc* fort, a roughly pitched path through a narrow and sterile valley enters upon the meadows of the *Bergerie de Pra* (3 hrs. from Bobbio, 5683 ft.), situated in the midst of fertile pasturages, where barley and potatoes are raised. Here the traveller finds a small mountain *Inn* with more comfort than in many places of much greater pretension, and from this point, by continuing up the valley of the Pellice, he may reach the French side of Monte Viso by the *Col de Seylières* (9272 ft.) at a much earlier hour than from *Abriès*; having crossed it, the distance is short to the *Col de la Traversette*, and this is the easiest rte. round Monte Viso from the Val Pellice to the valley of the Po.

(Those bound to the Val Varaita can reach the *Col de Vallante* in about 1½ hr. from the *Col de Seylières*. A more direct and even more striking rte. from Pra to Crissolo is by the *Col del Luisas* (about 9843 ft.) at the very head of the valley, between the *Monte Meidassa* and the *Monte Granero*, the rte. joining that from the Traver-



sette at the base of the last steep ascent on the Italian side. The former peak (10,188 ft.) can be easily ascended in a few minutes or, if preferred, climbed direct, and descended direct on the other side; the latter (10,401 ft.) is a rough rock scramble of 1 hr.).

The ascent to the *Col de la Croix* is by a steep path called *La Coche*. The summit is reached in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the Bergerie; and from the highest point (7576 ft.) there is a striking view of the defile of Mirabouc, while Monte Viso is a noble object. The pass is nearly level for half an hr., and then the track, traversing the side of a hollow, gradually falls to the valley of the Guil, within the territory of France. On the col there is a block of stone carved with the fleur-de-lis, and the cross of Savoy, to mark the frontier, and a little below it a *hospice*. The descent is very gradual for some way above a gorge called Combe de la Croix; and here and there traces of an intended road surveyed under Napoleon may be seen. In 1 hr. the traveller reaches **La Monta**, in the valley of the Guil, where is the custom-house, and here the char-road is joined, which leads through the hamlet of **Ristol**, and in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the pass to

**Abriès**, a town of 900 Inhab. Notice the 16th cent. Romanesque church, and the curious 17th cent. market-hall. The village lies at a height of 5092 ft.

[Abriès is a splendid centre for excursions, all easy and all commanding most splendid views. The *Bric Froid* (10,860 ft.), and the *Grand Glayza* (10,781 ft.), each 5 hrs., are specially recommended. The *Bric Bouchet* (9853 ft.) is a fine peak, but a more difficult climb (5 hrs.). For the highly recommended ascent of the *Cima di Losetta* (10,020 ft., 5 hrs.), near the Col de Vallante, see Rte. 165. The passes to the Val Pellice have been noticed above; for those from the upper Guil valley, see Rtes. 164 and 165. Two passes, the *Col de Turres*,

$7\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., and *Col La Mayt*,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., lead to Césanne, and a third, the *Col de Matrif*, in 7 hrs., to Briançon by Cervières.]

Here the torrent from Valprévaire flows into the Guil, and a path up it leads to the Cols de Malaure and d'Urina, mentioned above.

Below Abriès the excellent road passes near the valleys in which there are still Protestant communities, particularly that of **St. Véran** (Rte. 168), or Val de Molines, which joins from the l. the valley of the Guil, at **Villevieille**, a little above Château Queyras, and the valley of **Arvieux**, which enters that of the Guil near *Château Queyras*. To these, and the Val de Freissinières, on the other side of the Durance (see HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE, Rte. 139), the name of the *Pays de Neff* has been given, to commemorate the services rendered to these communities by the Swiss Protestant minister, who devoted his life to renovating and sustaining the religious worship of the Protestants of these valleys. Félix Neff, like Oberlin, the good pastor of the Ban de la Roche, not only promoted the religious faith and practice of these people, but established schools, and taught them agriculture, and the elements of other useful knowledge. He died in 1829, at the early age of 31. His name throughout these valleys is remembered with the deepest reverence and affection.  $3\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Abriès is **Aiguilles**, the chief place in the valley, nearly destroyed by fires in recent years.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Abriès is

**Château Queyras**, finely situated on an isolated crag: it is garrisoned, and entirely commands the valley, and from every point of view presents a most picturesque appearance.

[From Château Queyras the *Col d'Izouard* (or d'Hyzoar) offers a direct and easy rte. to Briançon, char-road except between Cervières and Brunissart, a distance of less than 3 hrs. Not far from the top (7835 ft.)

is a *Hospice* open throughout the year. From the hospice the *Roche-brune* (10,906 ft.), the fine peak above Briançon, can be ascended in 4 or 5 hrs.—an easy ascent but a very stony one. There is a Club hut 1300 ft. below the summit.]

Below Château Queyras the new road follows the stream, then mounts high above its l. bank in a fine gorge, and joins the old path at *La Maison du Roi*, at the entrance of the Ceillac valley, through which are passes to the head of the Ubaye valley (Rte. 168). The gorges, fine above *La Maison du Roi*, become magnificent lower down, the road running at a great height above the torrent, on its l. bank. The Combe du Queyras is one of the wonders of this part of France. (For further details as to the whole valley, see HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE, Rte. 140).

**Guillestre**, a little town, which was one of the stations, during the wars of Napoleon, for English prisoners. The *church* (built 1507-32) has a porch of 3 arches supported by slender pillars, which rest on lions of a mottled red marble. From Guillestre there is a magnificent view of the Mont Pelvoux and some other of the snow-clad giants of the Dauphiné Alps.

A little below Guillestre, the road passes beneath the

*Fort of Mont Dauphin*, planned by Vauban and Catinat, which guards this entrance to France—a stronghold singularly placed on a precipitous rock of conglomerate that is nearly insulated at the mouth of the Guil at its confluence with the Durance. It then descends to (23 m. from Abriès) the **Mont Dauphin Stat.**, on the railway from Gap to Briançon, 34 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. from the former, and 16 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the latter place. (See HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE, Rte. 139.)

If this excursion be commenced from the side of France the train from Briançon to Gap will drop the traveller at Mont Dauphin. An omnibus will take him on to Guillestre. There he can hire a one-

horse calèche for Abriès, stopping at Château Queyras to rest and dine. (To Abriès, 6 hrs., exclusive of stops.) A diligence runs daily between these places.

## ROUTE 164.

### MONT DAUPHIN TO SALUZZO, BY THE COL DE LA TRAVERSESETTE.

Mont Dauphin	
15 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Château Queyras } road
23 m.	Abriès . . . . }
5 hrs.	Col de la Traver-
	sette path
3 $\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.	Crissolo . . . . "
6 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.	Paesana . . . . road
13 m.	Saluzzo . . . . "

This is a fine pass leading past *Monte Viso*, and by the head-waters of the Po. Abriès to Crissolo 8 to 9 hrs. on foot.

From Mont Dauphin to Château Queyras the road passes above a magnificent ravine; thence to Abriès the scenery is tamer (Rte. 163). Thence to Crissolo, in the valley of the Po, the pass is only for pedestrians, though there is a rough char-road for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. up the valley beyond Abriès, and on the Italian side horses can mount to the entrance to the tunnel. (To the S. of it nearer Monte Viso, is a smugglers' pass, called the *Col del Colour* (= *coulair*) *del Porco*.)

After passing **Ristolas**, and ascending to **La Monta**, where the path to the Col de la Croix turns off l., and **La Chalp** (a little beyond), where those to the head of the Val Varaita by the *Col de Vallante*, *Col de Soustras* or the *Col de Ruines*, or by the *Col Vieux* to Molines, turns off rt.—the rte. continues up the valley of the Guil to the highest huts.

The valley of the *Guil* above Abriès is narrow and savage: bare and precipitous escarpments descend to the torrent, and form its l. boundary: the bed of the Guil is filled with



enormous rocks. The road ascends the rt. bank over pasturages abounding in rare plants. Above these the Monte Viso continually presents itself, filling the open space formed by the sides of the valley. The ascent of Monte Viso from this side (first made in 1879) is difficult. To the r. tower the singular cliffs of the *Roche Taillante* (10,499 ft.), and the glacier-clad mass of the *Grande Aiguillette* (10,781 ft.), both accessible; the former with difficulty from the valley leading to the Col Vieux. Near an enormous solitary tree visible from afar, the track leaves the valley, and mounts to the N.E. over steep pastures past the lonely *Bergerie du Grand Vallon* (8782 ft.).

[From this point a pedestrian may reach Bobbio in 5 hrs., and La Tour de Luserne in 7 hrs. by the *Col de Seylières*, descending to the head of the Val Pellice. To the rt. diverges the path to Val Varaita by the *Col de Vallante* (Rte. 166).]

Above the *Bergerie du Grand Vallon* the pasturages are left, and the ascent lies over a track rudely paved with large stones. This has been several times repaired, so as to enable mules to pass, but fresh damage is constantly arising, and during some summers the snow lies low on both sides of the pass. The paved road extends to the **Tunnel of the Traversette**, pierced through the mountain 270 ft. below the crest. Its entrance, long closed by the fallen débris of the precipices, has been cleared of all obstacles, and opened out so as to render this pass easy to ordinary pedestrians. The tunnel is 246 ft. long, 6½ ft. high, and 8½ ft. wide.

Documents existing at Turin prove that the *Pertuis du Viso*, as the tunnel is called, was excavated, 1480, by Ludovico II., Marquess of Saluzzo; who, with a spirit beyond his age, undertook this extraordinary work for the commercial interests of his people, by making a safe rte. from Saluzzo to Dauphiné. By treaty with Louis XI. of France, who

contributed towards the expenses on his side of the mountain, this road was opened to receive from France, by laden mules, salt, drapery, and metal wares, in return for nut-oil, wine, rice, and flax from the marquessate of Saluzzo. By means of this tunnel, and the roads constructed as approaches, intercourse was open 6 or 8 months in the year. The tunnel was begun in 1478, and completed in 1480;—an extraordinary work to accomplish in that time, as the labourers could only work, at that height, about 4 or 5 months in the year. It greatly facilitates the passage, though the perpendicular height saved is only some 270 ft. The original documents relating to this remarkable undertaking, and a sketch of the history of the tunnel (sometimes called *Buco di Viso*) may be found in an admirable monograph (in French) by Signor Luigi Vaccarone, *Le Pertuis du Viso* (Turin, 1881).

The tunnel has been frequently blocked by rocks, sometimes intentionally by the sovereigns on either side. It was opened in 1803, and since 1856 has been made more accessible, but it is closed by snow after severe winters. It takes 10 min. to pass through it, and there is a broken iron handrail inside.

From the *Col* (¼ hr. beyond the tunnel, and 5 hrs. from Abriès) the view down the valley of the Po, and over the plains of Italy, is pre-eminently beautiful. From a height of 9679 ft. above the sea the eye follows the mountain vista to a level expanse, which extends at least 100 m. to the horizon, and is studded with bright but indistinct spots, marking the positions of the towns of Piedmont. In contrast to this vague and far-stretching distance, the rocks of *Monte Viso* rise grandly nearly 3000 ft. over the head of the traveller. To gain a view of the Alps towards the N., it is necessary to descend a little towards Italy, and then mount an eminence on the l., which before obscured that part

of the chain. A still finer view is obtained by mounting in 1 hr. over screes and snow to the top of the fine rocky peak, immediately S. of the pass, the *Monte di Marte* (10,368 ft.).

The traveller who would enjoy this view should leave Abriès so as to be on the col by 9 o'clock or earlier, before the midday vapours rise in the plains and valley of the Po, and obscure the prospect.

The *Col de la Traversette* is a mere ridge, so narrow that it is crossed in a few paces. On it are remains of a redoubt; and during the wars of the Revolution many struggles were made and skirmishes fought for its possession.

The traveller has to proceed down a steep and difficult path towards the valley of the Po, which early in the season when covered with snow, may be difficult and even dangerous. In a few minutes the Italian entrance (marked by splashes of red paint on the rocks) of the tunnel is passed, and at a fine spring the rte. from Pra at the head of the Val Pellice by the Col del Luissas (Rte. 163) falls in. [Hence the *Monte Meidassa* (10,188 ft.) can be reached easily in 1 hr, the *Monte Granero* (10,401 ft.) in 2 hrs. with rather more difficulty—views from both most superb.] About 1000 ft. below the col a mass of rock is turned abruptly, and on the rt. opens a scene which is perhaps the finest on the pass. The peak of Monte Viso rises magnificently from the side of a deep valley, in which are some dark little lakes, the sources of the Po, and below them the river is seen to trickle in a silver line down the black rocks, from the base of the Viso into the valley beyond. Nothing can exceed the impression of solitude and grandeur made by this scene. At length, however, the savage wildness of the summit is passed, and vegetation is reached (1 hr.) in a beautiful plain covered with rich herbage. This spot is called the *Piano del Re* (6725 ft.), and

on it an *Albergo Alpino*, well spoken of, has been opened. (Here is the douane.)

A short descent from the *Piano del Re* (past the first waterfall of the infant Po) leads to another little plain, the *Piano di Fiorenza*, so named from its beautiful flowers. Nearly 2 m. below it is the first hamlet, *Piano Melzé*, a name derived from a forest of larches (*melesi*), which formerly covered it. About 3 m. further the traveller reaches the highest village (1¼ hr. from the *Piano del Re*).

**Crissolo** (4374 ft.). 10 min. distant on the N. hillside is the **Sanctuary of San Chiaffredo**, commanding a noble view of Monte Viso and the bare downs and wooded glens at its base. The adjoining *Hospice* is now a large *Inn*, with fair food, but during the pilgrimage month (September) generally over-crowded, noisy and dirty. The local saint was a member of the Theban legion, who escaped the massacre at St. Maurice to lay here his wonder-working bones, which are now the objects of a pilgrimage, which probably dates from pre-Christian times and is a survival of river-worship. The present church was built in 1551 by the French, who held the marquessate of Soluzzo from 1529 to 1588, and exchanged it in 1601 for Bresse, Bugey, and Gex.

There is a large cavern, the *Balma di Rio Martino*, in the limestone hillside S. of the village. It has many chambers and some curious stalactites, and has been recently rendered accessible; it is worth visiting, and magnesium lights should be taken from the *Inn*.

Crissolo is an admirable centre for excursions, and is destined to future celebrity.

That most to be recommended is to the sources of the Po and ascent of the Visomout.

The path leading to the Col de la Traversette is followed as far as the *Piano del Re*. 5 min. from the *Inn*



is the fine spring called the source of the Po, though it is really fed from the lakes to which the traveller proceeds. Here the traveller mounts to the l. to the Lago di Fiorenza—600 yds. long by 200 yds. broad—on which a boat has been placed. A rough ascent past several smaller tarns leads to the *Passo dei Viso* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the Piano del Re), the lowest point in the ridge connecting the *Visomout*, or *Visomozzo* (9902 ft.), with the great mountain, to which it serves as a Hörnli. It is accessible in 1 hr. from the col, and well repays ascent. From the col, passing the *Lago Grande*, but leaving several other tarns to the l., the path from the *Passo delle Sagnette* is joined and followed to Crissolo ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the *Pass dei Viso*). The whole excursion from Crissolo, including the *Visomout*, will take 8 to 10 hrs.

The *Monte Frioland* (8924 ft.), 4 to 5 hrs. To those who hesitate to climb Monte Viso this prominent summit in the range N. of Crissolo offers probably the best panoramic view of the plain and the great circle of the Alps, including the peaks of Dauphiné. Horses could certainly be taken to within an hour of the top. A pedestrian might find a beautiful walk by descending directly to La Tour in Val Pellice. The fine rock peak of the *Visolotto* (N. and highest point, 11,001 ft.) may be ascended by a good rock climb up the E. face in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the *Inn* on the Piano del Re, and descended on the W. to the head of the Guil valley, and the return made in 5 hrs. from the summit by way of the gap to its S., the *Col du Visolotto*.

**Monte Viso** (12,609 ft.), the highest point of the Cottian Alps, was first ascended, 1861, by Messrs. W. Mathews and F. W. Jacomb, with the guides J. B. Croz and Michel Croz of Chamonix, by way of the S. face. An active climber will find it possible to make the ascent in the day from Crissolo, but it is better, in order to have a good view, to sleep at the Alpetto Refuge 2 hrs. above the

village, or at the new Club hut at the S. foot, 5 hrs. from Crissolo—3 or 4 hrs. only from the top. The S. base of the peak is reached by the *Passo delle Sagnette*. The climb under ordinary conditions offers little difficulty to fair cragsmen, and is now frequently accomplished. The mountain has been reached direct from the Piano del Re by a very hard climb by way of the N.E. face, and by an easier one from the Lago Grande up the very steep E. face.

Monte Viso throws out to the E. a spur which divides the Po and its tributary the Lenta; to the S.E. the ridges from it divide the valleys of the Po and Varaita; and towards the S.W. another spur divides the valleys of the Guil and Ubaye. Monte Viso is mentioned by Pomp. Mela and Pliny as the source of the Po, and Virgil takes his wild boar from the pine-bearing *Vesulus*.

Now that there is tolerable accommodation at Crissolo, the best way to make the **Tour of Monte Viso** is to take a guide from that village and cross the ridge separating the Po from the Lenta; climb the slope of débris to the *Passo delle Sagnette*, at the head of Val delle Forciolline; descend that valley, to Val Vallante; then over the *Col de Vallante* to the head of the valley of the Guil; and back by the *Traversette* to the valley of the Po. This tour was first effected in 1839 by Prof. Forbes in 14 hrs., starting from the valley of the Guil on the French side. It is a severe day's work, and had far better be broken into two days, sleeping at **Casteldelfino**, to which there are two more direct and lower passes in the ridge S.E. of the Sagnette. The Sagnette takes 9 hrs., the *Passo di San Chiaffredo*, 8 hrs., and the *Colle di Luca* 6 hrs.

There are many passes across from Crissolo to the Val Pellice, mentioned in the last Rte. The *Col del Luissas* is recommended to climbers, the *Col de Sea Bianca* with which the *Monte Frioland* (see above) may be combined, to moderate walkers and the *Colle*

*delle Porte* to those who are specially interested in the Vaudois.

A good carriage-road leads through the very picturesque ravine of the Po, below Crissolo. It descends rapidly beside the stream to the junction of the Po and the Lenta.

[Above the confluence is the village of **Oncino**, in a striking situation between the two rivers. The view from it of the valley of the Po, and the plains of Piedmont, is singularly fine. An easy pass leads from it to Sampeyre in Val Varaita.]

Below this spot the chestnut woods begin, and the scenery grows softer as the road enters the fertile basin of

**Paesana** ( $6\frac{1}{4}$  m.) (7400 Inhab., 1955 ft.). The view hence of Monte Viso is superb. Desiderius, King of the Lombards, who was defeated by Charlemagne, and kept prisoner for a long time at Vienne, in Dauphiné, was permitted at last to take up his residence at Paesana where he died, at least so says tradition.

[A tolerable road branches off to  $4\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Barge**, and passes through a beautiful and rich country, by Bibiana and Luserna S. Giovanni to La Tour (Rte. 163). There is a *Rly.* (8 m.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.) from Barge to Bricerasio on the line from Turin to La Tour, this being the shortest way of gaining either La Tour or Turin from Crissolo.]

Between Paesana and Saluzzo are  $3\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Sanfront** (4887 Inhab.) and the villages of Gambasca and Martiniana. At the latter, the valley, widening to the plain, is altogether left by the traveller, and for the remaining distance of 6 or 7 m., the road, skirting the mountain, runs on a level to

13 m. **Saluces** (Ital. *Saluzzo*), a town of 16,237 Inhab. *Cathedral*, begun in 1480. The old *Castle* of the Marquesses of Saluces, above the town, is now a prison. Fine view from its terrace. In one of the squares is a statue of *Silvio Pellico*, author of *Mie Prigioni*, born here 1789. Fine

fruits, peaches, figs. *Rly.* hence to Turin by Savigliano in 2 hrs. *Tramway* to Cuneo in  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hrs., and to Pinerolo in 2 hrs.

## ROUTE 165.

ABRIÈS TO CUNEO, BY THE COL DE VALLANTE AND VAL VARAITA OR VAL MAIRA, VAL GRANA.

This route leads through very beautiful and grand scenery, which has been much neglected by tourists.

The **Monte Viso**, while itself wholly in Italy, juts out from the main chain of the Cottian Alps in the form of a bastion, of which the acute inner angle belongs to France, and sends its waters to the Guil. The N.E. face rises above the head of the valley of the Po, while the S. face sends its waters through various secondary valleys to the Val Varaita.

The summit of Monte Viso being considered the salient angle of the bastion, the pass of the *Traversette* lies N.W. of it, the Col de *Vallante*, immediately W., crossing the S. face of the bastion.

From **Abriès** the rte. is the same as in Rte. 164, as long as the path remains in the valley. At that point, instead of turning up to the l., the main valley is followed for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. towards Monte Viso, seen across the depression which forms the pass. The scenery here is very fine. The head of the valley forms an amphitheatre; in the nearly level bottom snow lies for 9 or 10 months of the year; and around, especially towards the summit of the mountain, precipitous faces of rock alternate with shelving snow-slopes. Notwithstanding the height of Mte. Viso (12,609 ft.), none but small glaciers of the second order are formed about it, partly because of its extreme steepness, partly because the climate is here very sensibly



warmer than that of Switzerland or northern Piedmont.

The ascent to the *Col de Vallante* lies up débris mingled with snow at the base of some vertical rocks, keeping rather to the l. Above the débris is a snow ridge, over which the course bears somewhat to the rt. or E. of S., till the traveller suddenly finds himself on the summit (9269 ft.), (5 hrs. from Abriès), at the upper margin of a steep hollow, the bottom of which is filled with snow. •[From the col, the rocky point (10,726 ft.), at which the great spur on which stands the Viso, joins the frontier ridge, may be climbed by a rough scramble up the S. ridge and W. face in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. It has been variously named *Punta Gastaldi* (in honour of the eminent Piedmontese geologist) on the Italian map, *Visoulet*, on the French map, and *Viso de Vallante* by some writers. The peak immediately to the W. of the Col de Vallante, the *Cima di Lozetta* or *Pointe Joanne* (in honour of one of the founders of the French Alpine Club) (10,020 ft.), may be climbed from the col by steep rocks, but is more conveniently gained from the Col de Soustras to its W., or the glen leading up to that pass from the head of the Guil valley (cairn on top is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the Guil.) The latter ascent ought to be made by every one crossing the col, as from no point can the grand precipices of the Viso be more splendidly seen.]

The descent, though steep, presents no real difficulty. Care must be taken to keep to the rt. side of the ravine which commences below the snow-slopes. The path becomes gradually better marked and long, keeps along the rt. bank of the stream which is crossed near the *Soulières* chalets, 1 hr. from the col, and at the opening of the Val delle Forciolline, through which lie the routes to the Viso and the Passo delle Sagnette.

A short distance below the chalets trees begin to appear, and the scenery of the lower part of the Val de Vallante is very beautiful, the charm

being enhanced by its contrast with the bare and savage rocks of the higher glens of Monte Viso. At the picturesque hamlet of *Castelponte* ( $\frac{3}{4}$  hr.) the mule-path from the Col dell' Agnello to Casteldelfino is joined; but there are footpaths which make the way shorter and pleasanter. After the meadows below Castelponte are traversed, a steep and tiring descent leads in 1 hr. to

**Casteldelfino** (*Château Dauphin*, 8 hrs. from Abriès, the chief village of the upper Val Varaita (4152 ft.). The position is very beautiful; and if the accommodation were better, it would be an excellent place for headquarters. It is one of the starting-points for the ascent of Monte Viso. The picturesque ruins of the *old castle* (built 1330 by the Dauphin of the Viennois) above the ancient chapel of Sant' Eusebio, command a fine view of Monte Viso, and recall the fact that the Varaita valley and its glens formed part of Dauphiné, then of France, till, in 1713, by the treaty of Utrecht, it (with Fénestrelle and Exilles) was exchanged for the valley of Barcelonnette, which belonged to Savoy, though on the W. side of the Alps.

Several interesting ascents may be made from Casteldelfino. The finest is the *Pelvo d'Elva* (10,053 ft.) ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the Col della Bicocca, or  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Casteldelfino), which commands a grand view of the Alps and of the plains. The *Tête des Toillies* (10,430 ft.) is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr. from the Col de Longet (the last  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. an enjoyable rock scramble), or  $6\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. from Casteldelfino. The *Pain de Sucre* (10,552 ft.) is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., and the *Grande Aiguillette* (10,781 ft.) 3 hrs., from the Hospice a few min. below the Col dell' Agnello, on the French side and about 5 hrs. from Casteldelfino.

The *Val Varaita*, which runs due E. for nearly 20 m. hence to Venasca, where it opens out into the plain, differs in character from the neighbouring valleys. Being less contracted, it has fine open pas-

tures, extensive pine-forests on the mountain slopes, and some tillage in the bottom of the valley. Above Casteldelfino it is separated into two branches by the ridge descending from the *Grand Rubren* (11,142 ft.), one of the highest peaks S. of Monte Viso.

[The N. branch, or Val di Chianale, leads by the *Col de Ruines* or the *Col de Soustra*, by the Guil valley to Abriès; by the *Col dell' Agnello* to Villevieille and Château Queyras (Rte. 163); or by the *Col de St. Véran* to St. Véran. The Agnello (8 hrs.) is an excellent mule-path with a *Hospice* close to the summit, where rough accommodation may be had. The scenery is agreeable throughout. The *Col de Longet* leads to Barcelonnette, through the valley of the Ubaye (Rte. 168). All these passes are from 8700 to 10,000 ft. in height. The S. branch or Val di Bellino, communicates by the *Col de Lautaret* and other passes with the valley of the Ubaye. N. of Casteldelfino, three lateral glens lead to the valley of the Po, by the *Colle di Luca* (the shortest), *Passo di S. Chiaffredo*, and *Passo delle Sagnette*. The last is the nearest to Monte Viso. It lies at the head of the *Val delle Forciolline*, which branches rt. from the Val de Vallante, at the **Soulières** chalets. The *Col della Bicocca* leads due S. into the Val Maira.]

From Casteldelfino it is  $6\frac{1}{4}$  m. by a good road to **Sampeyre**, the chief town (5762 Inhab.) in Val Varaita and thence it is a dusty drive of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  m. to *Venasca*, which is  $10\frac{1}{2}$  m. either from *Saluzzo* (by steam tramway), or from the *Maddalena* stat. on the rly. from Turin to Cuneo.

### Val Maira.

Those who wish to see more of this region of the Alps should cross the ridge S. of Casteldelfino, separating the valleys of Varaita and Maira. The ascent (by a mule-path) to the *Col della Bicocca*, from the hamlet of Posterle,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from Casteldelfino, is very beautiful, partly through pine-forest, partly through

open pastures covered with rare and beautiful alpine plants. It is but a slight *détour* to ascend nearly due S., reaching the ridge a little to the E. of the actual col (7511 ft., 3 hrs.). The views in the ascent, and from the summit, are very beautiful. Monte Viso is of course the most conspicuous object, but in many other directions rugged ranges are seen, whose very existence is unknown to the generality of Alpine travellers. W. of the col is a fine rocky peak, the *Pelvo d'Elva* (10,053 ft.), which commands a still finer view ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the col).

From the crest of the ridge there is a mule-path leading down to a small cluster of poor houses, *Chiosso*, at the head of a ravine which runs due S. to the main valley. Like the Val Maira itself, these tributary valleys or ravines are extremely abrupt, so that it is a matter of labour and difficulty, often an impossibility, to cross them. It is therefore necessary to decide in time whether the traveller intends to steer for *Prazzo*, or whether he proposes to reach on the same day S. *Damiano*, at the lower end of the valley. In either case a considerable *détour* is rendered necessary by the steepness of all the mountain slopes. The course to *Prazzo* lies to the rt. of the main ravine, and crosses a second low col, *Colle di San Michele*, before reaching **Prazzo** (3 hrs.). [Prazzo is  $3\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the highest village in the valley *Acceglio*, whence there are many passes into the Ubaye valley, of which the *Col de Maurin* or *de Mary* (7 hrs.) is traversed by a mule track. From Prazzo the *Col de Siboulet* leads over to the Val Grana in 7 hrs, and there are passes also from Prazzo and Acceglio to the Val Stura in 8 hrs. or so, the *Col del Mulo* being the most frequented (mule-path).]

That to Stroppa, for the lower part of the Val Maira, after a rapid descent, goes to the l. by the village of *Elva*. The scenery throughout bears comparison with many districts of



far greater celebrity; and the view of the ranges of the Maritime Alps, from a projecting eminence, which must be crossed by a short ascent from the village of Elva, is most striking. Stroppo lies 1168 ft. below the level of Casteldelfino, yet the river runs in a deep ravine which it has cut out of the yielding strata. S. Damiano is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. by char-road from Stroppo. The walk should, if possible, be taken either early or late, as it is oppressively hot during the day-time. Yet it would be a loss to pass such beautiful scenery in the dark.

**San Damiano** is a large and thriving village of 2705 Inhab. Thence  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. by carriage-road to the country town of **Dronero**, whence there is a *steam tramway* to ( $11\frac{1}{4}$  m.) **Cuneo**.

### Val Grana.

From Caraglio,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  m. from Cuneo, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Dronero, a char-road leads to *Val Grana* ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  m.), the chief place of the valley of the same name, a narrow and rocky glen scarcely known to strangers, but offering in its lower portion, fine scenery. **Pradlèves** is  $6\frac{1}{4}$  m. further, amid fine forests. Hence or from *Monterosso* lower down, to Demonte, in the Val Stura, by the *Colle dell' Ortiga* (Urtia), 5 hrs.  $3\frac{3}{4}$  m. further the road ends, and mule-paths lead to the adjoining valleys. The most frequented is the *Col de Siboulet* (8403 ft.), to the Val Maira. The path passes through a pretty wooded gorge before reaching the last village, **Castelmagno**, and mounts by the *Sanctuary of San Magno* (another of the Theban Legion) to the col (4 hrs.). After descending a short time the track of the *Col del Mulo* from the Stura valley is joined, and followed past the village of *Canosio*, through another pretty wooded gorge, and round a corner of the mountain to **Prazzo** (3 hrs.).

### ROUTE 166.

CUNEO TO EMBRUN, BY THE COL DE L'ARGENTIÈRE AND BARCELONNETTE.

**Cuneo** (see Rte. 170).

A good carriage-road, except between Berzesio and Larche, where there is a char-road.

This pass (6545 ft.) which has been strangely overlooked of late years, both by historians and physical geographers as well as by travellers, is the lowest but two (the *Mont Genève*, 6102 ft., and its neighbour the *Col des Echelles de Plampinet*, 5873 ft.) in the Western Alps, and has been used from time immemorial by the Piedmontese on their way to Provence. Napoleon ordered a high road to be made over it with the title 'Route Impériale d'Espagne en Italie.' Mr. D. Freshfield has in the *Alpine Journal* (Nos. 81 and 93) given the arguments for regarding it as the rte. taken by Hannibal in crossing the Alps.

Independently of this theory, the pass has great interest for students of military history, as the scene of one of the most remarkable passages of the Alps ever executed by an army. In Aug. 1515, Francis I., with an army of 21,000 Frenchmen, 2500 Lancers, and 20,000 German mercenaries or lansquenets (*Landsknechte*), with 72 large cannon, and 500 small pieces carried on mule-back, crossed in 3 days the Col de l'Argentière, other divisions of the army crossing the Col de Ses-trières and the Col dell'Agnello. The Rocher de St. Paul, which barred the descent from the Col de Vars, was blasted in a single day by Pietro Navarro, one of the first engineers who practised military mining. But this was the easiest part of the task; far more arduous was it, on the edge of sloping crags smoothed by avalanches and slippery with ice, to plant and to fasten the timber props on which frail bridges could be reared to cross the

torrents, and against the face of precipices and over gulfs, to erect scaffoldings, which horses, mules, and heavy cannon could venture to cross. In some cases this was impossible, and the only alternative was to let down the gun by ropes into the gorge on one side and raise it up on the other. All these and many more difficulties were overcome; on the third day the army camped on the summit of the pass, on the fourth the obstacles of the *Barricate* were surmounted, and on the fifth the French were pouring like a torrent into the plains of Saluzzo.

The vanguard, a column of cavalry, under the Seigneur d'Imbercourt, and the Chevalier Bayard, descending suddenly by Rocca Sparvera, surprised the papal general Prospero Colonna at table in Villafranca, near Saluzzo, and made him prisoner, with a band of 700 knights, coming down on him so suddenly that he asked if they had dropped from the clouds.

The pass was again crossed by troops in 1692, 1710, and 1744.

There is a *steam tramway*, and also a Rly. from Cuneo, by Boves, to (8 m.) **Borgo San Dalmazzo** (by road 5 m.). This town, of 3242 Inhab., is the ancient *Pedona*, ruined by the Saracens from Fraxinetum about 906, and by the Milanese in 1231, and then rebuilt under its present name. Above it is the picturesque *Sanctuary* of Notre Dame de Montserrat. (Here the road to Nice, by the Col de Tenda, branches off, Rte 170.)

The road passes (6 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.) **Rocca Sparvera**, and mounts along the bank of the Stura to (15 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.)

**Demonte**, a town of 5854 Inhab., formerly remarkable for its fort, which guarded the passage to France by the Col de l'Argentière; it was built by Charles Emanuel I. in the 16th cent., upon the ruins of a very old castle razed by the Austrians in 1559. It has been memorable for its sieges in almost every war be-

tween France and Sardinia. In that of 1744, when the Spanish and French armies, commanded by the Infante Don Philip and the Prince of Condé, invaded Piedmont, they forced the narrow pass of the *Barri-cades*, descended the valley, and took the fort by the use of red-hot shot. Afterwards they besieged Cuneo, and fought a battle which they won from Charles Emanuel III., who succeeded, however, in throwing supplies into the city, which was gallantly defended. After a tedious investment, the storms of autumn and the want of supplies—which were cut off by the peasantry—compelled the allies to raise the siege and recross the Alps towards the end of Nov., when they suffered the severest privations from cold, hunger, and fatigue. Though pursued by the troops, and assailed by the peasants, yet they returned to France, over frozen roads, and through deep snow, with all their artillery, and with a few guns taken from their enemies,—the trophies for which they had sacrificed thousands of lives and millions of treasure. On their way they destroyed the fort of Demonte. It was again restored, but finally demolished in 1801, when Piedmont having become a part of France, the forts that guarded the frontier were razed. The mound upon which the ruins stand is situated in the middle of the valley,—the river passing on one side and the road on the other. [From Demonte to the Val Grana, by the *Colle dell' Ortiga*, 5 hrs., and to Valdieri by the *Colle della Madonna*, 3 hrs.] After Demonte the road mounts the valley to

22 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Vinadio**. A fortress commands the valley. Any traveller who sketches in this neighbourhood will be called on for his passport, and liable to detention until he can prove he is *not* French. The scenery is highly picturesque,—a charm for which it is much indebted to the magnificent old trees which form foregrounds to beautiful views



of the river and the mountains; and these are heightened by the festoons of vines and gourds which decorate the branches. From Vinadio the view down the valley is particularly fine.

[ $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. above Vinadio, at a place called **Pianche**, the ravine of the **Val delle Traverse**, with a cascade at its entrance, opens on the l. In this ravine,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. by a carriage-road from Pianche, are the *Baths of Vinadio*—a humble and sequestered establishment. The gorge which leads to them is in some places very grand, and abounds in cascades.]

Above this point the change is rapid to a wild and Alpine scenery. The road passes the villages of **Sam-buco** ( $28\frac{1}{2}$  m.), **Pietraporzio** ( $31$  m.), and **Ponte Bernardo** ( $31\frac{3}{4}$  m.). In a narrow defile called *Le Barricate* (the *Barricades*)—where defences of the valley were formerly erected, and which were often the scene of desperate conflicts—the road is carried along a shelf of rock cut out of precipices which overhang the ravine, and offer a serious barrier to the passage of the valley. Beyond the Barricades the road lies amidst the *débris* of the mountains, and offers a scene of wild desolation. Higher up is the village of

$36$  m. **Berzesio**, the principal place between the Barricades and the Col de l'Argentière. Above it the scenery is wild and rugged, the mountains crested by pinnacles of rock, blighted and scathed. Still, in the valley, barley is cultivated, and the pastures are rich; and at the village of ( $38$  m.) **Argentera** there is a poor little *Inn*. Soon afterwards the road zigzags abruptly up a height of nearly  $1000$  ft. in order to gain ( $42\frac{1}{4}$  m.) the Col de l'Argentière (also called *Colle della Maddalena* and *Col de Larche*),  $6545$  ft. above the sea. Before arriving at it, the path skirts a little lake (*Lago della Maddalena*), the source of the Stura. Looking back, the highest peaks of the Maritime Alps are seen; towards France there is little dis-

tant view. An easy descent over flowery pastures leads to

$46$  m. **Larche**, and **Meironnes** lower down. At Larche there is a sundial with the motto 'Tempus omnia fugit' in Greek and in Greek characters! Below Larche there is little of interest in the scenery as far as ( $51$  m.) the hamlet of **Gleizolles** at the junction of the Ubayette with the Ubaye, commanded by the remarkable fortress of *Tournoux*, hewn out in the living rock, whence two roads lead into the Embrunais, —the principal following the course of the Ubaye to Barcelonnette, the other leading N. by the village of *St. Paul*,  $5$  m., and the *Col de Vars*,  $5$  hrs., to Guillestre and the valley of the Durance.

It was by the second that Francis I. led his troops. Châtelard, a well-cultivated little plain, is left on the rt., and the road passes on by **Jausiers** (here are many well-to-do persons, who have returned after making their fortunes in Mexico), where, at the Pont de Cluse, a rocky defile offers some striking points of view.

$60\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Barcelonnette**,  $14\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Larche ( $1919$  Inhab.), situated in an open valley on the rt. bank of the Ubaye, is a small, well-built town, founded in  $1231$  by leave of Raymond Bérenger IV., Count of Provence and Barcelona (whence the name of the town). It passed into the possession of Savoy in  $1388$ , being formally ceded in  $1419$ , and was often attacked and sacked by the French, though it was only in  $1713$  that by the Treaty of Utrecht this valley on the W. of the Alps was acquired by France in exchange for her possessions on the E. slope, Exilles, Fénestrelle and Casteldelfino. In the principal street a fountain bears a bronze bust of *Ant. Manuel*, the orator of the Restoration. Barcelonnette is chiefly inhabited by proprietors of the alps and pasturages of the valley. To these more than  $100,000$  sheep are

brought, during the summer, from the vast plains of La Crau, in the neighbourhood of Arles, and are driven, as in all the valleys of Dauphiné, into the most accessible pasturages, often 20 days' journey. From their wool some coarse goods, consumed chiefly by the inhabitants, are made. Corn is grown in the valley; but for almost everything else the natives are indebted to strangers.

This valley was known to the Romans, but little of its alleged history is certain, except in connection with that of Embrun, which has been better preserved. It is known that it was subjected to irruptions by Saracens, who made their way from Marseilles, or Fraxinetum, on the Gulf of St. Tropez.

In the 6th cent. a convent of Benedictines established here did much to ameliorate the condition of the inhab.; but all the wars in which Provence has been engaged have extended their horrors to this valley, and it was often laid waste by the Saracens, particularly in the 10th cent. From the 14th it was alternately subject to Savoy or France. Amadeus VII. conquered it in 1388; it was reattached to Provence by René of Anjou in 1447; it was again taken by the Duke of Savoy, Charles III., in 1537. In the middle of the 16th cent. the inhabitants adopted the Reformed doctrines, but they were shortly after either forced to abjure them or were expelled their country.

[There are many communications with the neighbouring valleys by mountain passes; as with Embrun by the *Col de la Vachère* (or *du Grand Vallon*) with Colmars and Allos (Rte. 167), and with Nice by the valleys of the Tinea and the Var (Rte. 167).]

Soon after leaving Barcelonnette, near the village of *St. Pons*, the ruins of a castle and a ch. are seen in a fine situation. The first large village is (64½ m.) **Thuiles**, and the next, after crossing the Ubaye by a

wooden bridge, **Méolans**. [Hence there are two passes to Embrun; the *Col de l'Eysalette*, N.E., the *Col de Dormillouse*, N.W.]. Lower down, amid dreary and wild scenes, the general character of the valley of Barcelonnette, there is one striking exception in the beautifully situated village of

73½ m. **Le Lauzet**, the Goshen of the valley. It is agreeably wooded; near it is a little lake which abounds in trout, and in the immediate neighbourhood are fruit-trees and a fertile soil. A little way below, however, the scene changes again to sterility. After crossing a ridge, a series of zigzags leads down the pass of La Tour. Below it the valley offers some of its wildest and grandest scenes. On looking back from the road which is carried high above the torrent, the Ubaye is seen issuing from the defile of La Tour, and beyond it the grand form of the *Mont Enchastrayes* (9695 ft.), which divides the valley of Barcelonnette from that of the Tinea. The scene is one of savage dreariness.

The road continues on the l. bank high above the river; until, leaving the side of the hill upon which the fort of *St. Vincent* is placed, it leads down to the little village of

78½ m. **Ubaye**. From this place, one road passes down the Ubaye to its confluence with the Durance below **La Bréoule** (4 m.); and another ascends, N., the mountain side to the *Col de Pontis*, leading to **Savines** on the Durance (8 m.), and the railway from Gap to **Embrun** (HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE, Rte. 139), which is 6¼ m. distant from Savines.

From the road to the Col de Pontis, the hill of St. Vincent is a strikingly fine object, surmounted by forts which guarded the entrance to the valley of Barcelonnette, when it belonged to Savoy. By a wise arrangement it was ceded to France in 1713, in exchange for the valleys of Pragelas and Exilles, when France and Savoy agreed upon the chain



of the high Alps as their line of demarcation.

**Embrun**, a town of 4008 Inhab. (See HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE, Rte. 139).

## ROUTE 167.

DIGNE, IN THE VALLEY OF THE DURANCE, TO BARCELONNETTE, BY COLMARS AND ALLOS.

Miles.

	Digne
23 . . .	Thorame
30 $\frac{1}{2}$ . . .	Colmars
36 . . .	Allos
50 $\frac{1}{4}$ . . .	Uvernet
52 $\frac{3}{4}$ . . .	Barcelonnette

The traveller from Marseilles who approaches the Alps by Digne (the capital of the Department of the Basses-Alpes), may enter them by an interesting line of railway, and pass through scenes little known to English ramblers.

From **Digne** (102 m., 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. by fast train from Marseilles), there is a carriage-road except between Allos and Uvernet, where the good mule-path is nearly a char-road. From Digne, a carriage-road through a valley of Alpine character, and therefore welcome as an escape from the parched plains of France, leads by the village of Draix to the *Col de la Sine* (4954 ft.), where there are refreshing green pasturages, 12 m. from Digne: thence the road leads down through sun-burnt valleys, rather resembling those of the north of Spain than of France. After crossing the Séoune the village of **Château Garnier** is passed. The traveller reaches the valley of the Verdon at Thorame Basse; 2 m. further is

23 m. **Thorame Haute**. There is some good glass in the 16th cent. church.

The road mounts the rt. side of the stony valley of the Verdon to

30 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Colmars** (4131 ft., 1845 Inhab.), a small fortified town, which commands the entrance to a gorge. It is still garrisoned, and its gates are shut at 9 P.M. with as much regularity as when it was a more important station. A little above the town, in the valley, there is a small intermittent spring. Still further up the valley of the Verdon, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. above Colmars, is the little town of

36 m. **Allos** (4675 ft., a well-preserved specimen of a Gaulish hill fort, at the end of a long tongue of land running down towards the Veron) is in a high Alpine valley, surrounded by lofty mountains. Above the village is the *church* (Monument Historique), said to have been built in Charlemagne's time. The neighbourhood of Allos is scarcely known to English travellers, but it well deserves their attention. [An excursion should be made to the *Lac d'Allos*, a distance of 3 hrs. E. by the village of *Champ Richard*. The lake is one of the largest and deepest in the French Alps, though it is situated at the height of 7130 English ft. Its form is almost circular, its circumference nearly 4 m., and N. of it rises the *Mont Pelat* (10,017 ft., fine view), accessible hence in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. by stony slopes and the E. ridge. It is a wild and sequestered spot. The neighbouring mountains are covered with snow, below which are stunted pines hanging from precipices and deep ravines. The lake is remarkable for its outlet, by which the water passes underground for 1500 ft.; it then bursts into the valley, but, after foaming down a succession of cascades, meanders in gentleness and beauty through pasturages rich in vegetation. Barcelonnette may be reached in 7 hrs. from the *Lac d'Allos* by the *Col de la Petite Cayolle*, and the Bachelard valley or the *Col de Fours*, while by the *Pas de Lausson* and the sources of the Var, the highest hamlet in that valley, *Esteng*, can be gained in 2 hrs. From Es-

teng the easy *Col de la Cayolle* leads to Barcelonnette, or by descending the Var valley, *Guillaumes* may be reached in about 3 hrs.]. From Allos to Barcelonnette the rte. lies up the valley of the *Verdon*, and after passing the village of *La Foux*, and crossing a stone bridge, the path to the *Col de Foux* or *d'Allos* (7382 ft.), which divides the valley of *Verdon* from that of *Ubaye*, is soon gained. It is a fine pasturage to the summit, and from it a charming view is suddenly presented on looking up the valley of the *Ubaye*. The descent from the col is steep but exceedingly romantic, leading down through a valley of great boldness, richly wooded, and past (50 $\frac{1}{4}$  m.) **Uvernet**. *Barcelonnette* (Rte. 166), may be reached on foot direct from Allos, by the *Col de Fours* and *Col de Talon*, but after passing the former col it is worth while to follow the path of the *Col de la Cayolle* (leading to the Var valley) and near its summit bear to the right over the *Col de la Petite Cayolle*, and so past the *Lac d'Allos* to Allos. [In descending from the *Col d'Allos*, the valley of the *Bachelard* torrent opens on the rt., flanked by grand precipices. It leads S. to **Entraunes** in the Var valley by the *Col de la Cayolle*, and E. by the *Col de la Moutière* to *St. Dalmas le Sauvage*, and thence to **St. Etienne** (S. Stefano), in the valley of the *Tinea*. From *St. Etienne* the traveller may follow the char-road down the *Tinea* valley for 41 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. to its junction with the Var valley, rather nearer *Nice* than *Puget Théniers*. A pedestrian may, from *St. Etienne*, ascend the *Mont Tinibras* (9945 ft., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., fine view), descending if he wishes to the Baths of *Vinadio*. From *St. Etienne* the *Cols de Jallorgues* and *de Pal* lead to the Var valley, the *Col des Granges Communes* (or *de Vermillon*), to *Barcelonnette*, and the *Col du Lauzanier* to *Larche*. By descending 8 m. down the *Tinea* valley to **Isola**, he may cross the *Col de Valasco* (also called *Col de Valscura* or *Bassa di Druos*), to the Baths of

*Valdieri*, or the *Col de Saleses* (*Salèze*), to *St. Martin Lantosque* (8 hrs.) or (by combining it with the *Col de Fre-mamorta*, the Baths of *Valdieri* may be reached, or else he may traverse the *Col della Lombarda*, or the *Col di Sta. Anna*, to the Baths of *Vinadio*, in the valley of the *Stura*, in *Piedmont* (Rte. 166). From **Saint Sau-veur** (10 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. below *Isola*) he may go in 5 hrs. to *St. Martin Lantosque* by the *Col de St. Martin*.

The highest point in the range between the Var and *Tinea* valleys, the *Mont Mounier* (9246 ft.), may be reached from all sides (6 hrs. from *Isola*, 7 hrs. from *St. Etienne* by the fine gorge and picturesquely-situated hamlet of **Roja**), and commands a fine view of the mountains of *Dauphiné* and *Provence*, while it is said that in clear weather the *Mediterranean* is visible.]

## ROUTE 168.

BARCELONNETTE TO BRIANÇON, BY  
THE VALLEY OF THE UBAYE  
AND ST. VÉRAN.

Besides the three routes from the valley of the *Ubaye* to *Embrun*, by *Barcelonnette* and the high road, the *Col de la Vachère*, and the *Col de Vars* and *Guillestre*, there is another, by which the traveller may reach the valley of the *Guil*, and visit wild and sequestered scenes in the neighbourhood of *Monte Viso*. To **St. Paul**, 14 $\frac{1}{4}$  m., there is a carriage road.

9 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. above *Barcelonnette* lies the confluence of the *Ubayette* and the *Ubaye*; the former leading to the *Col de l'Argentière* (Rte. 166), the latter to the *Embrunais* by the valley of *Maurin*.

The ascent along the *Ubaye* leads by a deep ravine below the rock-hewn *Tournoux*, still garrisoned owing to the importance of this frontier passage. In the early part



of the 18th cent., when the valley of Barcelonnette belonged to Savoy, this spot was the scene of many struggles. The new road passes through a fine gorge into the basin-shaped valley of **St. Paul sur Ubaye**. St. Paul is dominated by the magnificent rock peak of the *Brec de Chambeyron* (11,116 ft.), which can be reached in 6½ hrs. by a difficult climb of 1¾ hrs. up the E. face from the *Col de la Gippiera*, by which the Val Maira may be gained, as also by the *Col de Stropia*, S. of the peak. The *Col de Portiollette* leads to Larche. [Before reaching the village, the char-road by the *Col de Vars*—where is a *Hospice*—to Guillestre and Embrun winds above the deep ravine of the Intra torrent which descends from the Col de Vars and past the villages of La Serre and Intra. This pass is perfectly easy, and by it the distance from St. Paul to Guillestre is 5 hrs. Though 6939 ft. high, it was crossed in 1515 by Francis I.'s army, and by troops again in 1692, 1710, and 1744, in fact, whenever an army crossed the Col de l'Argentière, to which it is, as it were, the entrance.]

Above St. Paul the valley narrows again, becomes very desolate, and continues like a ravine until (3 hrs.) it expands into the basin of **Maurin**, a name given to the three villages of *Maljasset*, *La Barge*, and *Combe Brémond*. The road is practicable for chars to the highest hamlet. Beyond that is a mule-path.

**Maljasset** is in a pasture basin, at a height of 6267 ft., the parish ch. being midway between it and Combe Brémond. An inscription on the door records the fact that it was destroyed by an avalanche in 1531. A niche in the wall of the churchyard is meant to receive the coffins of those who die during the winter, as the ground is too hard frozen to allow of a grave being dug at that season. Maljasset is an admirable centre whence to make mountain ascents, and passes lead in every direction. No one should neglect to

make the ascent of the N.W. spur (*Pointe de Mary*, 10,266 ft.) of the *Pointe Haute de Mary*, just E. of the village (3 hrs. up, 1 hr. down), which commands a splendid view of all the peaks of the remote valley, explored first in 1879 by Mr. Coolidge.

Above Maurin they have begun to work serpentine as ornamental stone, and between this valley and that of the Guil serpentine and diallage constantly occur. [Many passes lead across the mountains. 1. the *Col de Maurin* or *de Mary*, and the *Col de Roure*, by the valley of the Maira to Dronero; 2. the *Col de Lautaret* or *de Chabrière*, to Casteldelfino in the Val Varaita; 3. the *Col de Longet*, from the head of the valley of the Ubaye also to Casteldelfino. 4. the *Cols de Cristillan*, *Tiroure*, *Albert*, *Tronchet*, and *Girardin* (this the most frequented, a mule-path by the lovely lake and chapel of St. Anne), to Guillestre by Ceillac; 5. the *Col de Panestrel* and *Col des Houerts* to Guillestre by the beautiful but rarely visited valley of Escreins.

A great number of peaks can be ascended from Maljasset. The highest is the *Aiguille de Chambeyron* (11,155 ft., due S.), the loftiest summit between the Viso and the Mediterranean, which is accessible without any great difficulty to climbers in 7 hrs. (best rte. by the S. ridge). The *Pointe Haute de Mary* (10,589 ft., 5½ hrs.) is a difficult ascent, but that of the *Dents de Maniglia* (10,391 ft.), reached in 1 hr. from the Col de Roure, is easy, as is also the *Tête du Pelvat* (10,558 ft., 4½ hrs.), by way of the Col de Lautaret. The easiest climb from Maljasset, and perhaps the finest view point, is the *Grand Rubren* (11,142 ft., 4½ hrs.); it is at the head of the valley, and immediately opposite the Viso. The *Tête des Toillies* (10,430 ft., 1¼ hr. from the Col de Longet, last ¼ hr. an enjoyable rock scramble), and *Péou Roc* (10,601 ft., 3 hrs. from the Col du Tiroure), are recommended to climbers only. The *Pointe de la Font Sancte* (11,057 ft.) is not a difficult climb

by the E. ridge (6 hrs.), and may be descended to Escreins, whence the *Point des Henrières* (10,739 ft.), on its N. ridge, is accessible in 5 hrs., the *Pic Signalé des Houerts* or *Aiguille de Jean Rostan* (10,617 ft.) in 5 hrs., and *Panestrel* (10,673 ft.) in 4 hrs. by way of the *Col des Houerts*, while from the *Col de Panestrel* at its S. foot, a great rock gully enables a direct descent to be made to Maljasset (2½ hrs.).]

A little above the last village the traveller arrives at the small *Lac du Paroird*, a piece of water which evidently owes its origin to a stupendous landslip from the western side of the valley called the *Costabella*. On the margin rye is cultivated, though the height is very great. After passing this lake and a series of cascades, the valley is ascended steeply for several miles by a wild path, bounded by lofty peaks, and terminating in the track to the *Col de Longet* (8767 ft.). This extends over fine pasturages, at a great elevation, to an abrupt and magnificent descent to Casteldelfino in Piedmont (Rte. 165).

The path to St. Véran rises on the l. to cross the ridge which divides the valleys of Maurin and St. Véran.

The ascent is quite pathless, and often over patches of snow. The *Col La Noire* is 9840 ft., and is attained in 4 hrs. from Maljasset. The view from it is grand; on one hand, towards Monte Viso, which appears quite close, and on the other to the Dauphiné Alps, which are finely seen. The *Tête des Toillies* (10,430 ft.), just to the E., may be climbed in ½ hr. (last bit steep). A very steep descent leads in 2½ hrs. to **St. Véran** (668 Inhab.), 6591 ft. above the sea, being probably the highest village, with the same amount of population, in Europe, though Avérole, near Bessans, and Juf, in the Grisons, are still higher. Around it barley and rye are cultivated; the former to the elevation of nearly 7000 ft.

*St. Véran* is situated in a remarkably verdant and well-watered valley of the same name. Its appearance

is extraordinary; for, instead of houses, it seems to be a mass of space and scaffolding; the houses are built entirely of wood, except that sometimes they rest on a basement of stone, which encloses the stable, a common practice in the high villages of the French Alps. Around the houses runs a gallery, with a roof projecting 6 or 8 ft., and fitted with the sort of scaffolding which gives so odd an appearance, at first sight, to the village; the purpose of this woodwork is to enable the inhabitants to dry their ill-ripened corn under shelter: their harvests generally take place early in the autumn, before the frosts set in, the seed having been sown in the July of the preceding year.

The Protestants were formerly very numerous at St. Véran, consisting of twenty-four families; a Protestant church has lately been erected; but the service is neither frequent nor regular.

Here was occasionally exercised the devoted ministry of Neff. The Protestant communities of St. Véran, Fongillarde, La Grave, Freissinières, Dormillouse, &c., some of these places being above 40 m. apart from others, formed the extensive district where he laboured with a devotion and energy to which his health and life were at last sacrificed in 1829.

The Roman Catholic church of St. Véran is situated near the highest part of the long straggling village, which forms indeed a sort of inhabited shelf on the bare mountain side.

The house of the *curé* adjoining is the only stone dwelling in the place.

From St. Véran an agreeable char-road leads down the valley by *Molines* and *Villevieille* to (8¼ m.) **Château Queyras**, and thence to **Briançon** (Rte. 163). If the object of the traveller be to visit Abriès and the upper valley of the Guil, he may attain them through scenes of grander character than those presented by the high road, by making the round by the Refuge on the *Col dell' Agnello* and crossing the *Col*



*Vieux*. The easy *Col des Estronques* leads in 3 hrs. from St. Véran to Ceillac, whence the *Maison du Roi* on the high road in the Combe du Queyras (Rte. 163) is reached, and so Guillestre, a pleasant variation on the high road. In going to Château Queyras he should not fail to notice a geological curiosity near Molines, on the opposite side of the torrent descending from St. Véran. The slopes have been covered with extremely hard blocks of diallage rock. In one place these have rested on a friable slaty limestone, which in the course of time has been washed away by the rain and melting snow, excepting the parts protected by these boulders. In this way pillars, not unlike Gothic pinnacles, which, in some cases, have an elevation of 100 ft., have been left, with these rocks for capitals, presenting an extraordinary appearance, with an obvious origin. Similar pillars are to be seen in Switzerland, and other valleys of the French Alps, and in the Tyrol at Ober-Botzen, not far from Botzen, in the valley of the Adige.

## ROUTE 169.

CUNEO TO NICE BY THE BATHS OF  
VALDIERI AND ST. MARTIN LAN-  
TOSQUE.

A. BY THE COL DELLA CIRIEGIA.

B. BY THE COL DELLE FINESTRE.

A little beyond Borgo S. Dalmazzo (Rte. 166), a road turns up the Val del Gesso.

A. From the village of **Valdieri**, 11¼ m., the road, passing l. the entrance of an important tributary valley, that of the Gesso d'Entraque (see B), ascends a wild glen past the plain of *Santa Anna*, on which stands the king's shooting-box, to the **Baths of Valdieri** (22¼ m. from Cuneo, 4416 ft.), which are situated in a narrow

defile, the savageness of which is relieved by luxuriant beech-woods.

Here is a good *Hotel*. The Baths are frequented by the best Piedmontese society in July and August, as a refuge from the summer heats. There are several detached chalet residences close to the baths, where rooms can be had during the season. *The Baths shut 1st September.*

The hot sulphureous and saline springs were known to the Romans. At the end of the 15th cent. they were brought into fashion by the cure of Violante (Yolande) of Savoy, widow of Philibert II. The present huge bath-house was built in 1857 and following years. The sulphur-springs are considered a remedy for ophthalmic affections, and there is also another and a curious production of the place which is said to be efficacious in cases of gun-shot wounds, and some internal disorders. This is a cryptogamic plant (*Ula labyrinthiformis*), called Muffa, which grows on the rocks down which the warm springs flow, and is applied externally.

The neighbourhood is celebrated for the richness of its flora. Numerous paths among the beechwoods afford short walks to the bathers. Longer excursions are much facilitated by the number of excellent hunting-paths made for the late king, who frequently came here for chamois-shooting.

The *Monte Matto* (10,128 ft.) rises N.W., and the *Punta dell' Argentera*, or *Stella* (10,827 ft.), S.E., the highest peak of the Maritime Alps. These peaks are both accessible to fair climbers (the former in 4½ hrs., the latter in 5½ hrs.), and command superb panoramas, on one side, of the Alps and Piedmont, on the other of the Mediterranean and of the French coast from Mentone to the Iles d'Hyères. Corsica is frequently visible, canopied by white clouds.

Close to the baths, a glen descends from the E. range, through which a good mule-path leads over the dull *Colle del Chiapous* or *di Lourousa*

(8268 ft.), to the *Lago della Rovina* and Entraque (see B). Above the baths the two principal glens unite. The W. is called the *Valasco*. Here Victor Emmanuel had a hunting-lodge. Rough passes lead from its head to Vinadio (*Col de Malinvern*) and the valley of the Tinea (*Col de Valasco* or *Bassa di Druos*), 7 hrs. to Isola (Rte. 167).

The rte. to St. Martin mounts the left-hand or S. glen, the *Valletta*. (The traveller will note that in place of chalets the shepherds find shelter in rude beehive-shaped cabins, built of stones and earth.) Before reaching its head, a rough mule-track strikes up to the l. (the better mule-track to the r. leads to Isola or St. Sauveur in the Var valley by the *Col de Fremamorta*), and in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the Baths, the traveller reaches the *Col della Ciriegia* or *de Cérèze* (8370 ft.), which commands a fine view. The Cima Mercantour, immediately E. of the pass, is only 9105 ft. high, the far loftier peak marked on many maps being an invention of the engineers. The descent into the valley of the Vesubia is steep and picturesque. The head-waters of the stream belong to Italy, having been left as part of the royal hunting-grounds when the County of Nizza was ceded to Louis Napoleon in 1860. A small *Inn* has been opened on the French side of the pass near the Ciriegia waterfall and chalets at the junction of several glens,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. from the Col.

**St. Martin Lantosque** (3117 ft.), is reached in 1 hr. more. Within the last few years this remote little mountain town has been connected with Nice by an excellent carriage-road ( $36\frac{3}{4}$  m., diligences up daily in  $9\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.), and has become a resort for residents on the coast during the summer heats. Several villas or chalets are scattered about the old village, and a Lilliputian English ch. has been erected. The ancient walls have only recently been destroyed. The traveller in this part of the Alps is surprised to

find even the smallest hamlets rudely fortified.

To mountaineers of moderate ambition the place has many attractions as a centre for the exploration of the Maritime Alps—which, if they do not rival the snows of Switzerland, or the crags of the Dolomites, offer some bold granitic scenery and superb views, and in their seaward valleys some of the most picturesque gorges in the whole chain, with a Mediterranean flora.

There are many easy excursions, that to the *Cime* or *Tête du Sirol* or *de Siruol*, to the S. (6611 ft.),  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., being a favourite one. An easy ascent is that of the *Testa della Rovina* (9823 ft.,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 hrs.) to the S.E. of the Cima Balma Ghiliè. The most tempting expedition for fair climbers is the *Cima dei Gelas*, (10,286 ft.), best made from the Hospice of La Madonna (see B).

[There is an easy but dull pass, *Col de St. Martin*, hence in 4 hrs. by the village of *Val de Blore* to the Tinea valley at St. Sauveur, and the longer but more attractive *Col de Saleses*, by the *Vallon de Mollières* to Isola higher up on the same river. The latter pass, combined with the *Col de Fremamorta*, leads to the Baths of Valdieri. The *Col delle Rovine* and *Col Mercantour* lead to the *Val della Rovina*, the *Col delle Finestre* (see below B), and the high *Passo del Pagarin* (between the Ellas and the Clapier) to the Entraque glen of the Gesso valley.]

The new road descends the l. bank of the Vesubia through a narrow and winding defile, leaving on the l. the new **Baths of Berthemont** (5 m.) to **Roquebillière**. Here olives appear side by side with pines. The lower valley of the Vesubia is exceeded in picturesque beauty by few in the Alps.  $8\frac{3}{4}$  m. from St. Martin the village of **Lantosque** is reached on a brow commanding the open valley. [Hence, or better from Roquebillière Saorge, on the *Col de Tenda* rte., may be reached by the



*Col de Raus* (6 hrs.), or *Tenda* by the *Baisse de St. Véran* and *Laghi Lunghi* (10 hrs.). (Rte. 170.)] The valley narrows to a defile, and the road crosses the river and slowly ascends through a romantic gorge to the top of a cliff known as *Le Saut des Français*, from a tradition that French soldiers were hurled over it in a disastrous engagement, when the troops of the Republic were, in 1800, driven by the Austrians across the Var. Passing the scattered houses of (18 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.) **Duranus**, the road descends round a wooded hollow, and turning a corner, remounts the barren slopes above the roadless lower gorge of the *Vesubia* to

23 m. **Levens**, a village placed on a high ridge dividing the waters of the *Vesubia* from those falling by a narrow glen directly to Nice. The *Inn* is by the roadside apart from the village. Hence there is a noble view down into the Var valley and of the ranges and coast beyond it.

The descent to Nice (13 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.) lies through a narrow and sterile glen. [Pedestrians may find a very beautiful path across the hills to *Aspremont*, and thence either by a good road or over the top of *Mont Chauve* to Nice in 4 to 5 hrs.] At (31 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.) the **Grotte de St. André** a picturesque defile is passed before the rich basin of Nice opens on the traveller.

**Nice** (see HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE, Rte. 128).

#### B. Valdieri to St. Martin, by the Col delle Finestre.

This is the easiest pass across the chain between the *Col de Tenda* and *Col de l'Argentière*, and is much frequented by the country people. 1 m. above the village of *Valdieri*, a road to the l. mounts (3 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.) to the large (2762 Inhab.) village of **Entraque**, situated in a sterile basin. The trout of *Entraque* are celebrated.

Beyond *Entraque* a carriage-road leads to the junction of the *Val della*

*Rovina* ( $\frac{3}{4}$  hr.). [A path leads up this glen in 2 hrs. to the picturesque *Lago della Rovina*, whence there are mule-paths to the *Madonna delle Finistre* and *Baths of Valdieri*, and a very rough direct pass of the same name to *St. Martin Lantosque*. From the huts near the lake, the ascent of the *Argentera* is far more conveniently made (5-6 hrs.) than direct from the *Baths of Valdieri* whence the lake may be easily gained by the mule-path over the *Colle del Chiapous* or *di Lourousa*.]

The mule-road to the *Col delle Finestre* mounts the left-hand glen. Glimpses up side glens show the glaciers of *Mont Clapier*. In 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from *Entraque* the *Col* (8107 ft.) is reached. A steep descent leads in 1 hr. to the *Hospice of La Madonna*, where rough quarters may be obtained. [Hence the *Cima dei Gelas* (10,286 ft.) can be ascended in 4 hrs., and by crossing the *Passo di Mont Colomb* in the ridge running S. from it the new Club hut, built by the French Alpine Club at the head of the *Gordolasca* glen, can be reached. From this hut the high *Passo del Pagarin* can be crossed to *Entraque*, or the *Mont Clapier* (9994 ft.) (most glorious view), may be ascended in 3 or 4 hrs. (difficult descent by the N. face to the *Valmasca*) or (in about 7 hrs.) the *Passo di Lusiera* (between the peak of that name and the *Clapier*) traversed to the *Valmasca* and so to *San Dalmazzo di Tenda*, or either the *Arpeto* or *Trem* passes crossed to *San Dalmazzo di Tenda* (see next Rte.).]

A further descent of 2 hrs. through pine-forests leads to **St. Martin Lantosque**.

### ROUTE 170.

CUNEO TO NICE OR MENTONE, BY THE COL DETENDA.

Miles.

Cuneo  
14 $\frac{1}{4}$  . . . Vernante (Rail)

Miles.	
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Limone (Road)
34 $\frac{3}{4}$	Tenda
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	Giandola
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sospello
73 $\frac{1}{2}$	L'Escarène
86	Nice

Rly. from Turin in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. to (54 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.)

**Cuneo** (or *Coni*) **Stat.**, 1558 ft. above the sea, a city of 24,852 Inhab., situated between the Stura and Gesso torrents, as it were at the junction of the Alps and Apennines. The view extending over the green plain to the snows of Monte Rosa is superb. The neighbourhood of the town is most fertile, and the rivers abound in fish,—the markets are consequently provided with an abundance rare even in Italy.

A *steam tramway* runs along the post-road N. under the hills to (2 $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs.) Saluzzo and (4 $\frac{3}{4}$  hrs.) Pignerol (Rtes. 162 and 164); also (1 $\frac{1}{4}$  hr.) to Dronero (Rte. 165).

Cuneo was, in its origin, a city of refuge. About the year 1100, Boniface, Marquis of Saluzzo, had occupied this district, which formed a part of the marquessate of Susa; but his authority was entirely inadequate to enforce the observance of the laws or to ensure tranquillity, and the lords of the adjoining castles so plundered the inhabitants of the surrounding country that they determined upon resistance. The people came together, in 1120, under the colour of a pilgrimage to the sanctuary of Our Lady of the Wood, now included in the city, and there determined to take vengeance, if, as usual, any of their wives and daughters were insulted by the petty tyrants of the surrounding castles. Cause of offence was soon given; the peasants assembled again, destroyed the castles, slew the oppressors, and, retreating in a body to the present site of the city, a *wedge-like* piece of land between the two rivers, there began to build. The abbot of San Dalmazzo, to whom the woods belonged, gladly permitted a settle-

ment which gave him the prospect of numerous vassals; and the *nuova villa di Cuneo* rapidly rose into consequence. In the 16th cent., Cuneo was strongly fortified, and its subsequent history is a succession of sieges. No stronghold was more celebrated in the military history of Piedmont, until 1800, when, after the battle of Marengo, the three Consuls decreed, on the 5th July, that the fortifications of Cuneo, the citadels of Milan and Tortona, the fortress of Ceva, and the gates and bastions of Turin, should all be destroyed; and, before the end of the month, those massy girdles of Cuneo were riven from their foundations, to the great advantage of the inhabitants. The *Duomo*, or cathedral, is the ancient sanctuary of the 'Madonna del Bosco,' but it offers nothing remarkable, as it was entirely restored after the siege of 1744. *San Francesco*, belonging to a Capuchin convent, a Gothic ch. of the 13th cent., is said to have been built in the time of the saint himself. The principal street, with arcaded house-fronts, is most picturesque. There is a pleasant public walk at the junction of the Gesso and the Stura.

[16 m. S.E. of Cuneo, by a good carriage road lies at a height of 2828 ft., the ancient **Certosa of Pesio**, founded 1174, now a bathing establishment with good accommodation, a charming garden, and a most exquisite neighbourhood. The surrounding mountains are clothed in beech-forests, and a little chapel a few minutes higher up the glen than the convent, commands views of the great chain extending to Monte Rossa and the Weissborn, seen across the Lombard plain. The Certosa is 4 hrs. from Limone by a mule path, the ascent of the Besinauda, easily taken *en route*, adding only 2 hrs. to the walk, and can also be reached from Tenda in 7-8 hrs. by a rough pass, the *Croce di Malabera*.

The *Besinauda* (7887 ft.), the N.



point of the chain separating the valley of the Certosa from that of Limone, is easily reached on foot or horseback in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or 4 hrs. It commands a superb panorama. Few mountains in the Alps can rival this aspect of Monte Viso. Beyond it the Alpine chain extends through the Grand Paradis and Monte Rosa to the Disgrazia. The sea is visible over the Col de Tenda, and (in evening light) the city of Genoa may be distinctly seen on its bay—through a gap between the Alps and the Apennines.]

The rly., on leaving the town, runs across a level plain, with noble views of Monte Viso and the Maritime Alps to

8 m. **Borgo San Dalmazzo** (see Rte. 166).

10 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Robilante**, where it enters the mountains and begins to ascend up the Vermenagna valley, and (14 $\frac{1}{4}$  m.) **Vernante**, where the railway ends for the present, though it is hoped to continue it in course of time to Ventimiglia. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. further is

**Limone** (3297 ft.). [To Pesio and the *Besimauda*, see above.] The traveller ascends rapidly by a good Alpine road, though constructed with less skill than those of more recent date. The abrupt turns of the terraces are often almost alarming in their aspect, nor are they as well defended as could be wished. The danger, or rather the semblance of it, is of course more felt in returning from Nice. About half-way from the summit an attempt was made in the 18th cent. by the princes of Savoy to carry a tunnel through the mountain, and thus avoid the passage over its crest. This has recently been completed. The tunnel is about 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. long and saves two hours and nearly 7 m. The crest, crossed by the old road, is a narrow ridge, 6473 ft. It commands a very fine view of the Alps, from Monte Viso to the Grand Paradis, Dent Blanche, Matterhorn, and Monte Rosa, while on the S. the Mediterranean may be discovered.

[Hence the *Rocca dell' Abisso*, 9039 ft., can be ascended in 3 hrs., or the village of Valdieri reached in 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. by the beautiful but long *Col del Sabbione*.] The descent on the S. side is by a succession of 75 zigzags from the house of refuge near the summit.

34 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Tenda** (2674 ft.), at the S. foot of the col, 1680 Inhab. Italian custom-house. An excellent station for sketching and fishing, and a place of much note in the feudal history of Italy. It was a fief of the powerful Lascaris family of Ventimiglia, a member of which was the unfortunate Beatrice di Tenda, wife of Filippo Maria Visconti, by whose commands she was tortured and condemned to death. There are some picturesque remains of the castle.

The road over the Col de Tenda is amongst the earliest of the Alpine roads. It was begun by Carlo Emanuele I., 1591; and improved 1779–1782 by Vittore Amadeo III., and is commemorated in two inscriptions near its commencement. Fine scenery and good chamois-hunting in the mountain-range W. of the Col de Tenda.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Tenda is **S. Dalmazzo di Tenda**, formerly a Carthusian abbey (or according to some, a house of Austin canons), now a Pension, much frequented during the summer heats, its climate cool, though it is only 2284 ft. in height. [In the mountains W. (5 hrs.) are some rocks, inscribed with rude figures, which have not yet been examined by competent judges, and may prove to be monuments of a primitive tribe. They are near some tarns known as the *Laghi delle Meraviglie* under the Monbego, from some lakes (*Laghi Lunghi*), below which rough passes lead over into the Val Gordolasca whence another ridge must be crossed before St. Martin Lantosque is gained after a long day's walk, which may be shortened by sleeping at the lead mining establishment, 2 hrs up from San Dalmazzo. *Mont Clapier* (9994 ft.) (Rte. 169) can be

reached by a long ascent through the Valmasca, and in 10 hrs. Lantosque may be gained by a circuitous route by the Laghi Lungi and the *Baisse de St. Véran*.

*Monbego* (9426 ft.), one of the highest of the S. spurs of the Maritime Alps, is easily ascended in  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from San Dalmazzo, and from it the view over the Mediterranean and the plains of Piedmont and Lombardy is splendid, stretching to Turin, Pavia, Milan, and the snowy Alps beyond.]

Beyond San Dalmazzo the road becomes exceedingly striking. Wherever the rocks allow the possibility of raising a wall you see a little village in the cleft, like the nest of a bird. The splendid gorge of *Berghe* is passed before reaching **Fontan**, where is the French custom-house. The finest of these savage defiles of the Roya is the gorge below

**Saorge**, a town of 1521 Inhab., where a fort perched upon a rocky knoll commands the passage of the gorge. It was taken by the French under Masséna in the campaign of 1794. [Hence the *Col de Raus* leads in 5 hrs. to Roquebillière (Rte. 169).] The Roya abounds with trout. The upper portion of this valley remains in the hands of the Italians: but the strong position of Saorge and the valley of the Roya are occupied by the French.

$53\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Giandola**, the first French village, is 1247 ft. high, and grandly situated at the foot of high schistose rocks, which look as if they were on the point of crushing the inhabitants. [A road of 20 m. from Giandola to **Ventimiglia**, along the Roya, passes through a grand gorge, and enables the tra-

veller to reach the rly. to Genoa, and to proceed into Italy without making the *détour* by Nice or Mentone.] The Nice road leaves on the l. **Breil**, a town of 2565 Inhab., near which are the ruins of the *castle of Crivella*, and ascends to the *Col de Brouis* (2749 ft.) by a very steep ascent of 1604 ft.), the sides of the mountain being covered with wild lavender.

$60\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Sospello** (3695 Inhab., 1145 ft.) is a sleeping-place for travellers by vetturino. Its situation is very beautiful. Through it rushes the *Bevera*, a roaring mountain-stream; and all around rise mountains out of an exceedingly fertile plain. The valley abounds in thick woods of olives and figs. The *Bevera* unites with the *Roya* about 4 m. before entering the sea at *Ventimiglia*.

[A cross-road (about 14 m.) branches off hence to **Mentone**, by the *Col de Castillon* (2400 ft.) and the valley of *Chiaret*: by this rte. travellers will reach Mentone in as short a time as Nice, through a very picturesque country.]

The road commences to ascend from the *Inn* door at Sospello to the *Col de Braus* (3287 ft.). In the autumn lavender-water is made on the sides of this mountain by the peasantry, whose rude apparatus is curious.

$73\frac{1}{2}$  m. **L'Escarène** (1496 Inhab.). After crossing another hill, we descend along the *Peille*, one of the tributaries of the *Paillon*, which is followed to Nice, and to the full luxuriance of the Riviera, passing by the villages of *Drap* and *La Trinité*.

86 m. **Nice**. [See HANDBOOK FOR FRANCE, Rte. 128.]



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*Hotels: Grand H. d'Aix; H. de l'Europe*, pleasant garden, both excellent and open all the year; *H. Venat et Bristol*, with a garden; *H. du Nord; Splendide Hôtel*, very large, above town; *H. de la Métropole; H. de l'Univers et des Ambassadeurs réunis; H. Britannique*—all very good; *H.*

AIX-LES-BAINS—

*contd.*

*Damesin and Continental; H. du Louvre; H. du Parc; H. de la Poste; H. Germain; H. Folliet; H. de l'Arc Romain; H. des Bergues; H. des Bains; H. Beausite*, above town; and many others.

*Physicians: Drs. Stanley Rendall; Wakefield; MM. Brachet; Macé; Guillard; Cazalis, etc.*

*Eng. Ch. S. (C.C.C.S.): in Eng. Ch. (St. Swithin's) during season only. Also at H. Splendide (S.P.G.).*

*English Chemist: Folliet*, opposite the *Etablissement Thermal*.

*English Bankers: Banque Commerciale d'Aix*, Place Revard.

*Funicular Railway up the Grand Revard.*

—\* to GENEVA, 595

— to CHAMBÉRY, 594, 598

—\* to ANNECY, 602

— to ALBERTVILLE by Annecy, 602

— to CHAMONIX by ANNECY, 591

ALA, 625

*Alb. Bruneri*, fair.

ALAGNA, 466, 471, 479, 480

*Guglielmina's H. & P. Monte Rosa*, 250 rooms, excellent and much fre-

**ALAGNA**—*contd.*

quented, electric light, telegraph, landlord also owns inns on Col d'Olen, at Riva Valdobbia, Varallo, and on Mottarone; Dr. Montella's *H. Weiss-horn* (Corno Bianco) is well kept, clean, and moderate; *Grd. H. d'Alagna*, 1 hr. above Alagna is the little *H. Belvédère*, in an admirable position between the Otro and Olen glens.

**Guide:** Giovanni Barone, good.

N.B. Good unfurnished lodgings for the season may be had at the houses of Giuseppe Steiner and Cristoforo Ferraris.

—\* to VARALLO, 466

— to MACUGNAGA by the Turlo pass, 479; \* by the Col delle Loccie, 470

— to the RIFFEL by the Sesia Joch or the Lys-joch, 480, 500

— to GRESSONEY by the Col d'Olen, 481; by the Col de Val Dobbia, 481; by the Col delle Pisse, 480

ALBARON, 623, 625

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ALBERGIAN, MONTE, 643, 646. COL D', 644, 646

ALBERTVILLE, 592, 617

**Hotels:** *H. Million*, excellent in every respect; *H. de la Balance*, good food; *Gare* (with Rlwy. Restaurant), oppos. stat.

**Railway:** To *Moûtiers Tarentaise*.

**Diligences:** to *An-necy* (4 hrs.), and *Chamonix* by Ugines (8 hrs.). Light coach (2 fr. 25 c.) to *St. Maxime de Beaufort* (3 hrs.).

—\* to SALLANCHES, 591

—\* to ANNECY, 603

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— to ST. PIERRE D'ALBIGNY, 616

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— PIGNE DE L', 510

— COL DE L', 510

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ALLEMONT, 633

*Chez Leydier*, best: in the village.

*Chez Perratone* (at the Fonderie), fair.

**ALLEVARD BATHS**, 605

**Hotels:** *H. du Parc*; *H. du Louvre*; *H. des Bains*, all good and in garden of the Etablissement; many other Inns and numerous pensions.

ALLOS, 665. LAC D', 665

*H. du Midi* (Pascal), good.

ALMAGELL, 472, 473

ALPE, 636. Nice little mountain inn, *Refuge Paquebot*. COL DE L', 634

ALPHUBEL, 474, 495

— JOCH, 476

ALPINE CLUB, Italian, 460, 525

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*Hydrop. Establishment* — *Grand Hotel*.

**Eng. Ch. S.** (S.P.G.).

ÂNE, BEC DE L', 587; COL DE L', 540

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**Hotels:** *Grd. H. Verdun*, good and moderate; *Grd. H. d'Angleterre*, good; *H. de l'Aigle*; *H. de l'Europe*.

—\* to GENEVA, 599

— to AIX-LES-BAINS, 602

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— to BONNEVILLE, 594

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— \*to CHAMONIX by Flumet, 591

ANNEMASSE, 545, 568

*H. de la Gare*; *Paix*, both near stat.; *Soleil*, in the town. *Railway Rest*.

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— COL D', 533

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*Marani's*, poor.

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**Hotels:** *H. du Mont Blanc*, excellent, in charming situation just outside town, one of the pleasantest halting-places in the Italian valleys of the Alps; *Couronne*, improved, in town, on Place Charles Albert: *Royal-Victoria*, opposite the rly. stat. kept by son of landlord of *H. Royal* at Courmayeur, new and good, but noisy; *Restaurant Lanier*, moderate.

**Diligences:** For Courmayeur await trs. (5 hrs.).

**Carriages:** For St. Rémy on St. Bernard, Cogne and Courmayeur.

**Mules:** For Valpel-line, and Col de Fenêtre.



**AOSTA**—*contd.*

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- \* to MARTIGNY by the Great St. Bernard, 531
- \* to MARTIGNY by the Col de Fenêtre and Val de Bagnes, 537
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*Veuve Clot.*

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*Argentera ; Croce Bianca*, poor.

— PUNTA DELL', 669, 671

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**Hotels :** *Couronne*, good ; *Bellevue*.

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New rival inn, 300 ft. above the valley, *Kurhaus d' Arolla* (Spahr, owner of the *H. de la Dent Blanche* at Evolena) ; *Hôtel du Mont Collon* (Anzevui), enlarged and improved, moderate pen-

**AROLLA**—*contd.*

sion, but often overcrowded.

**Eng. Ch. S. (C.C.C.S.).**

— to MAUVOISIN by Pas de Chèvres and Col du Mont Rouge or Col de Seilon, 516, 517

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**ARONA**, 441 ; ABBOT OF, 471

**Hotels :** *Albergo d'Italia & Posta*, good, with garden ; *Alb. San Gottardo & Svizzero*, very well spoken of, opposite the station ; *Alb. Reale*, good and cheap.

**Diligences :** Daily to Orta by good carriage-road (Rte. 118), 13 m., 2½ to 3 hrs.' drive over a low hill.

**Railway :** Direct (2¼ to 2½ hrs.) by Gallarate to Milan.

— to NOVARA, 441

— to ORTA, 464

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*Chez Grand*, rough mountain quarters but improved.

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*Poor Inn.*

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*Albergo Reale*, new ; *Alb. del Belvedere* ; *A. delle Alpi*, homely, good.

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*Good Inn.*

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Near the summit is the small *Albergo del Club Alpino*.

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*Inn now closed.*

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**Hotels :** *H. du Nord*, fair ; *H. de France*.

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**BARDONNÈCHE**, 609*Aquila Nera*, near stat., good, much frequented by Italians during summer.

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—\* to BRIANÇON by the Col des Echelles, 609, 642

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*Lion d'Or*, good and cheap.

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*Inn* (6 beds).

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**BAVENO**, 439*Hotels: Grand H. Bellevue*, good, with a large garden on the lake, very comfortable; *H. Beaurivage*, good; *Grand H. Baveno*; *H. Suisse*.**Eng. Ch. S.:** In Eng. ch. built by the late**BAVENO—contd.**

Charles Henfrey, Esq., C.E.

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*Grand Hotel*, good.

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**BELLAGIO**, 457*Hotels: Grand H. Bellagio*, an immense hotel, with Villa Serbelloni on the hill, as dépendance; *H. Grande Bretagne*, another equally immense hotel N. of the village, 200 bedrooms, electric light; *H. Genazzini*, good; *H. & P. de Florence*, fair, cheaper than the great inns.**BELLAGIO—contd.****Eng. Ch.** (St. James'), (C.C.C.S.).**Engl. Dr.** *See under* CADENABIA.

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*Chalet Inn*, with some beds.

— CASCADE DE, 562

**BÉRARDE, LA**, 634, 640*Chalet Hotel*, built by Société des Touristes du Dauphiné, kept by a Chamonix man, M. Tairraz, clean, very good, moderate prices. Best headquarters in district. New R. C. Chapel.

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— LITTLE, PASS OF, 588. Hospice, 590. Comfortable, good food.

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*Hydropathic Establishment* (Grand Hôtel) and several other Inns.



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*Leone d'Oro.*  
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*Chez Cimaz*, last house at W. end, near bridge, rather rough.  
 — to **ALA** by Col de Collerin, 623  
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*Hotels: Testa Grigia*, best, good; *Angelo*; *Leon d'Oro*; many others.  
*Club, Italian Alpine:* In Palazzo del Teatro, where strangers can see maps, etc.  
*Shop:* Besso for good mountain photographs.  
*Carriage:* To *Santuario di Graglia*, 2-horse carr. there and back, 18 fr.  
 — to **GRESSONEY ST. JEAN**, 485  
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**BIGNASCO**, 443  
*H. & P. du Glacier*, very good, most attentive host, same as at Grand Hotel at Locarno, moderate charges. 1-horse carr. from Locarno, 17 fr.  
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*Curé* entertains travellers.  
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*Chalet Hotel*, opened 1895, by the Lyons section of the French Alpine Club, good mountain inn.  
 — \* to **VAL D'ISÈRE** by Col d'Iseran, 622  
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*Hotels: Grand Hôtel*

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*de l'Oisans*, opened 1895, near stat., excellent in every way, electric light, etc.; *H. de l'Oberland Français* (Primat), opposite the stat., good; *H. de Milan*; *H. de France*, rebuilt; *Hôtel Ramel*. Mules and carriages for hire.

— to LA BÉRARDE, 634

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—\* to ST. JEAN DE MAURIENNE, by the Col des Prés Nouveaux, 629

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*Hospice*; *chez Balcet*, poor.

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*H. des Alpes*, good, just outside the town; *H. Favre*.

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At Breuil itself, *H. des Jumeaux*, near chapel, small, kept by Gabriel Maquignaz. At the Giomein huts above Breuil, *H. du Mt. Cervin*, good,

**BREUIL—contd.**

much enlarged in 1893.

Horses or mules to St. Théodule Glacier, 5 or 6 fr.

Guide to Zermatt, 15 fr.

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*H. des Alpains* (Gaide).

— to VAL PEISEY by the

Col de la Sachette, 620

**BRIANÇON**, 636

Hotels: *Terminus H.*, at rly. stat., very good; *H. de la Paix*, in town, dirty, but food fair, good restaurant.

Carriages: to *Oulx*, 25 fr.; to *Ville Vallouise*, 15 fr.; to the *Lautaret Hospice*, 30 fr.

Diligence: to *Oulx* stat. on Mt. Cenis Rly. at 10.30 a.m. and at 7.30 p.m., 5 hrs., return 7½ hrs.

—\* to GRENoble, by the Col du Lautaret, 631

— to LA GRAVE, by Vallouise and La Bérarde, 637

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Hotels: *Grand H. des Thermes* (200 rooms), with 2 dépendances, *Chalet*, and *H. de France*, very good and comfortable, visitors staying at any of these 3 houses have right to use Casino without further payment; *Grand Hôtel*; *Grand Hôtel des Baigneurs*; and other Inns.

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**BRUSSON**, 487

Hotels: *Lion d'Or*, fair little mountain inn; *Aigle*.

—\* to VALTOURNANCHE, 487

BUCO DELL' ORSO, 459

— DI VISO, 655

BUET, 546, 554, 562, 570

BUONO, MONTE, 521

BUSSOLENO JUNCT. STAT., 610

**C.**

**CADENABBIA**, 458

Hotels: *Bellevue*, immense building, close to water, very luxurious; *Britannia*, near the Eng. Ch.; *Belle Ile*; *P. Cadenabbia*.

Eng. Ch.: New Ch. of the Ascension (S.P.G.), opened Ascension Day, 1891.

Eng. Doctor: Dr. *Spurway* (of Rome) resides at the H. Belle Ile during May, June, and September, and practises there and at Bellagio and Menaggio.

CADENAZZO, 436

CAINALLO PASS, 457

CALASCA, 467, 472

*Inn*, tolerable.

CALVARY: Locarno, 437:

Orta, 464; Varallo, 460

CALVIN, JOHN, 525, 542

CAMANO, 454

CAMASCO, 466

CAMEDO, PASSO DI, 456

CAMOGHE, MONTE, 447

CAMP OF PRINCE THOMAS, 589



CAMPELLO, 465. Colle di, 465  
 CAMPERTOGNO, 466  
*Alb. Ferraris*, clean beds.  
 CAMPIGLIA (Andorno), 486; (Soana), 579  
*Cantina delle Alpi*.  
 CAMPIOLI, 468  
 CAMPIONE, 457  
 CAMPO, 443  
 CAMPOLUNGO PASS, 444  
 CAMPO TENCIA, PIZ, 444  
 CANNÈRO ISLAND, 438  
 CANNOBINA, VAL, 446  
**CANNOBIO**, 438, 446-7  
*Hotels: H. Biscione*, fair; *H. Cannobio*. At entrance of Val Cannobina stands the large Establishment *La Salute*, frequented chiefly by Italians, with noble view of the head of the lake.  
 CANOSIO, 661  
 CANOVA'S 'AMORE E PSYCHE,' 458  
 CANZO, 458  
 CAPOLAGO, 447, 448  
*Lac; Suisse*.  
 CAPIRIASCA, PONTE, picture at, 454  
 CAPRINO, MONTE, 452  
 CARABBIA, 453  
 CARCOFORO, 478  
 Two fair *Inns*.  
 — BOCCETTA DI, 479  
 CARLO, SAN, 444  
*Alb. Basodino*, rough.  
 CARLOTTA, VILLA, 458  
 CARONA, 453  
 CARRO, COL DU, 583, 623  
 CASERO, 439  
 CASSE DÉSERTE, COL DE LA, 641  
 CASSE, GRANDE, 629  
 CASTAGNERI, ANT., 625  
 CASTAGNOLA, 453  
 CASTELDELFINO (CHÂTEAU DAUPHIN), 659  
*Alb. di Francia*, fair.  
 — to SALUZZO, 660  
 —\* to ABRIÈS by the Col de Vallante, 659; by the Col de Ruines, or Col de Soustra, 660  
 — to CHÂTEAU QUEYRAS by the Col dell' Agnello, or Col de St. Véran, 660  
 — to BARCELONNETTE by

Casteldelfino—*contd.*  
 the Col de Longet, or Col de Lautaret, 660  
 — to THE VALLEY OF THE Po by the Passo di S. Chiaffredo, Colle di Luca, or Passo delle Sagnette, 660  
 — to THE VAL MAIRA by the Col della Bicocca, 660  
 CASTELLO, 453  
 CASTELLUS, ROCK OF, 651  
 CASTELMAGNO, 661  
 CASTELPONTE, 659  
 CASTIGLIONE, 453, 467  
 CASTILLON, COL DE, 674  
 CASTOR, 497, 501  
**CATHEDRALS**—  
 Annecy, 600. Aosta, 524. Chambéry, 598. Cuneo, 672. Embrun, 665. Lugano, 451. Moûtiers, 617. Pignerol, 646. Saluzzo, 658. St. Jean de Maurienne, 607. Susa, 613  
 CATOGNE, 532, 563  
 CAVALES, COL DU CLOT DES, 635, 641  
 CAVIGLIANO, 445  
 CAYOLLE, COL DE LA, 666  
 CAZOLI PASS, 444  
 CEILLAC, 654, 667. *Inn*.  
 CELSE-NIÈRE, COMBE DE, 639  
 CENERI, MONTE, 447  
**CENIS, MONT**, Pass, 610. Hospice, 612. Fell Railway, 611. Tunnel, 608  
 — to SUSA, 612  
 — PETIT MONT, 614  
 CENTOVALLI, VAL, 443, 446  
 CENTRON, 618  
 CEPPO MORELLI, 468  
*H. des Alpes*, better than those at Ponte Grande; though small, can furnish a very fair bed or luncheon.  
**CERES**, 624  
*Hotels: Grand' Alb.; Alb. d'Italia*.  
 CERESIO, LAKE OF (Lake of Lugano), 454. Porto, 450  
**CERESOLE**, 582  
*Hotels: Grand Hôtel*, frequented by the Piedmontese aristocracy in

**CERESOLE**—*contd.*  
 summer, new, 100 rooms, luxuriously appointed, electric light and telegraph. Same owner as H. d'Angleterre at Turin. Pension 14 to 15 fr. a day, including wine, etc. *Alb. della Levanna*, fair quarters, cheaper; *H. Bellagarda and delle Fonti*.  
 — SCALARI DI, 582  
 — to VAL D'ISÈRE by the Col de la Galise, 583, 621  
 — to BONNEVAL by the Col du Carro, 583, 623  
 — to THE VAL GRANDE by the Col della Crocetta, 582, 624  
 CERÈZE, COL DE, 670  
**CERNOBBIO**, 459  
*Hotels: Regina d'Inghilterra*, a large and comfortable hotel, admirable situation, close to lake. It is very good and pleasant winter quarters, and is connected by a bridge with *Villa d'Este*, for some time the residence of Queen Caroline, now also an hotel (omnibus goes to the Como stat.); *H. Brunati*, high up, funicular rly. (trains every ½ hr.).  
 CERRÙ CHALETS, 583  
 CERVIN, MONT (Matterhorn), 491, 497  
 — PETIT, 503  
 CÉSANNE, 642  
*Croce Bianca*, tolerable.  
 CEUTRONES, 618  
 CEVINS, 617  
 CEVIO, 443  
*Ristorante del Basodino* (Maestrelli).  
 CÉZANNE, REFUGE, 639  
 CHABAS (Vaudois Church), 651  
 CHABERTON, MONT, 642  
**CHABLE**, 538  
*H. & P. du Giétroz*, by the bridge, very clean, good, and cheap, but carriages hard to get. M. Nicolier, the landlord, is very obliging.

**CHABLE**—*contd.*

Guide: Justin Bessart, recommended.

— to RIDDES by the Col d'Etablons or de Verbier, 538

CHALLANT, VAL, 487, 522

CHALLES, 599

Etablissement des Bains; H. du Château de Challes; France, and others.

CHALP, LA, 654

CHAMBAVE, 523

**CHAMBERY**, 598. Cathedral, 598. Castle, 598. Library, 598. Excursions, 598

Hotels: H. de France, good and reasonable; H. des Princes; H. de la Poste et de la Métropole; H. de la Paix, opp. stat., with Restaurant serving as Buffet.

— to TURIN by the Mont Cenis, 605

— to LANSLEBOURG, by the Col d'Iseran, 616

\* to LYONS by Les Echelles, or Aiguebellette, 603, 604

CHAMBEYRON, AIGUILLE DE, 667

— BREC DE, 667

CHAMBRE, LA, \*to BATHS OF ALLEVARD, or to BOURG D'OISANS by the Col du Glandon, or to ST. JEAN D'ARVES by the Col de la Croix de Fer, 606; Col de la, 627

**CHAMONIX**, 548, 614. Excursions, 549. Pierre Pointue, 550. Montenvers, 550. Jardin, 551. Flégère, 553. Brévent, 552. Source of the Arveyron, 553. Chapeau, 553. Buet, 554. Mont Blanc, 551

Hotels: First class: Londres et Angleterre (60 beds); Impérial; Royal and De Saussure (85 beds), with Palais de Cristal as dépendance; Mont Blanc (60 beds), frequented by French climbers; Bellevue, new; France and Union (140 beds); Alpes

**CHAMONIX**—*contd.*

(120 beds), all good; Couttet (140 beds), just outside village, comfortable, frequented by English and Swiss climbers. Second class:—Beausite (80 beds) (Sylvain Couttet); Poste (40 beds); Suisse; Croix Blanche (36 beds); Paix (30 beds); and France.

Casino: (formerly the H. de l'Union) a café chantant.

Guides and Mules: The entire code of regulations relating to Guides at Chamonix was repealed in 1892. Properly qualified men will receive licences from the authorities to exercise the profession of guide in Upper Savoy: but travellers have now perfect freedom of choice in the selection of a guide at Chamonix, and can bring foreign guides to the valley.

The Chamonix men were the first in the Alps to learn and practise ice-craft, and this for many years gave them a deserved reputation. They may claim to have been the inventors of the art of mountaineering. But of late years some sad accidents, and many less conspicuous instances of incapacity, misconduct, and greed of gain on the part of its members, have lowered the reputation of the Chamonix guides. The following guides are selected from the list as among the best, and are placed in alphabetical order:—Cupelin, Edouard and Auguste; Dévouassond, François J., knows most parts of the Alps and N. Italy (but now old) and his brothers Henri and Michel; Folliquet, Michel; Payot, Michel (1); Payot,

**CHAMONIX**—*contd.*

Michel (2), Frédéric. and Alphonse, brothers; Savioz, Michel; Simond, François; Tournier, Alexandre; Tairraz, Tobie.

The Excursions are divided into Courses Ordinaires and Extraordinaires, for all of which there are charges fixed by the tariff, which the traveller can obtain at the bureau. For ascent of Mont Blanc, 100 fr.; Grands Mulets and back in one day, 20 fr. (10 fr. more if night is spent there); Col du Géant to Courmayeur, 50 fr.; Jardin, 14 fr.; Buet, 15 fr. (in one day) 20, (in 2 days) 10 fr.; ordinary day's walk 10 fr.; Plan de l'Aiguille, 10 fr.; by Chapeau to Montenvers, 9 fr.; to Planpraz, the Brévent, and Flégère, 10 fr.; Flégère only, 7 fr.; Bossons gl., 6 fr.

Eng. Ch. (C.C.C.S.): Neat building, holding 250 persons, outside vill., on road to Montenvers.

—\* to GENEVA, 544

— to COURMAYEUR by the Col du Bonhomme and Col de la Seigne, 557; by the Col du Géant, 566; by the Col de Miage, 565; by the Cols de Talèfre or de Triolet, 566, 567

— to ORSIÈRES, 563

— to MARTIGNY by Tête Noire, 562; by Finhaut and Salvan, 563; \*by the Col de Balme, 564

— to SIXT by the Col du Brévent and Col d'Anterne, 571

— to ZERMATT by the 'High Level Rte.,' 557

CHAMOUSSET, 606

CHAMPAGNY, 627

**CHAMPÉRY**, 573

Hotels: H. & P. de la Dent du Midi (130 beds), a good house, pension 6 to 8½ fr., baths in building



**CHAMPÉRY**—*contd.*

opposite; *Croix Fédérale*; *P. du Nord*; *Alpes*; *P. Berra*; *Champéry*.

**Eng. Ch.** (C.C.C.S.).

**Tariff for Guides:** In hotels a list of 44 excursions, with prices and times, from the latter of which one-fifth may be deducted.

**Carriages:** 1 - horse carr. to the rly. at *Monthey*, 10 fr., in 1½ hr. down, 3¼ hrs. up; *Bex*, 13 fr.; *St. Triphon Stat.*, 12 fr.; to *Morgins* by *Trois Torrents*, 14 fr., 24 fr. if excursion prolonged to *Abondance* (Rte. 145), and 36 fr. to *Evian* by valley of *Dranse d'Abondance*.

**Diligence:** To *Monthey*, daily at 7.45 a.m.

—\* to *SIXT* and *SAMOËNS* by the *Col de Coux* and *Col de la Golèse*, 572

—\* to *SIXT* by the *Col de Sagerou*, 570

— to *MORGINS* and *ABONDANCE* by the *Portes du Soleil*, 574

**CHAMPEX, LAKE OF**, 532, 563

**Hotels:** *H. du Lac*, well situated; *H. du Glacier*, new; *H. Crettet* and *H. Biselx*, rather primitive; all very cheap, pension 4 fr. a day, frequented by Swiss visitors. *Telegraph*.

**Eng. Ch. S.** (S.P.G.): at *H. Biselx*.

*CHAMPLAS*, 643

*H. National*, rough.

*CHAMPORCHER*, 522, 580

*Cantine du Coq*.

*CHAMPSEC*, 538

*CHANFORANS* (Scene of the first *Vaudois Synod*), 650

*CHANRION*, 516, 541

*CHANTAL, MÈRE*, grave, 600

*CHANTEMERLE*, 636

*CHANTRE, TABLE AU*, 554

*CHAPEAU AT CHAMONIX*, 553

*CHAPELLE D'ABONDANCE, LA*, 575

*Croix*.

*CHAPELLE, LA, EN VAL GAU-DEMAR*, 638. *H. du Mont Olan* (*Chez Gueydan*), fair mountain quarters.

**CHAPIEUX**, 560

**Hotels:** *H. du Soleil*, best and clean, but very homely; *H. des Voyageurs*, wretched.

— to *BOURG ST. MAURICE*, 560

*CHAPY, COL DE*, 529

*CHARBONEL*, 623

*CHARBONNIÈRE CASTLE*, 606 — *COL DE*, 584

*CHARDON, COL DU*, 640

*CHARDONNET*, 623; *COL DU*, 567

*CHARFORON, CIMA DI*, 584

*CHARMAIX, N.D. DU, sanctuary*, 607

*CHARMETTES, LES*; residence of *Rousseau*, 598

*CHARMOZ, AIGUILLE DES*, 549, 551, 554

*CHARRIÈRE, TÊTE DE*, 634

*CHARTREUSE, GRANDE*, 596, 603

— *DE PESIO*, 672

— *DE ST. HUGON*, 605

— *DU REPOSOIR*, 545

*CHARVENSOD*, 525

*CHARVIN, MONT*, 592

*CHASSEFORÊT, DÔME DE*, 628

*CHAT, DENT DU*, 597. *Pass of Mont du*, 597

*CHÂTEAU DAUPHIN. See CASTELDELFINO.*

— *DES DAMES*, 504

— *GARNIER*, 665

— *QUART*, 523

— *QUEYRAS*, 653, 668

*H. des Voyageurs* (*Veuve Boué*), good; *H. Puy-Cot*, fair.

*CHÂTEL*, 575

— *D'ARGENT*, 526

*CHÂTELAR, CASTLE OF*, 526

*CHÂTELARD*, 548

*CHÂTELARD*, 562

*Hôtel Suisse.*

*CHÂTELARD*, 601, 606

*H. de l'Harmonie* (*Vivian*), best; *H. de la Poste.*

**CHÂTILLON**, 488, 504, 522

*H. de Londres*, good.

—\* to *ZERMATT* by the *St. Théodule* pass, 502, 505

— to *GRESSONEY*, 486

*CHÂTILLON*, 545

*CHÂTILLON CASTLE*, 595, 596

*CHAUMONT. See CHIOMONTE.*

*CHAVANIS, CHALETS OF*, 579

*CHAVANNES, COL DE*, 560, 590

*CHAVIÈRE, COL DE*, 608, 628

*CHAZSÈCHE, COL DE*, 578

*CHÉCRUIT, COL DE*, 528, 561

*CHEDDE*, 546

*CHENALETTE*, 536

*CHÈNE*, 545

*CHERMONTANE*, 540, 541

— *COL DE*, 516

*CHESEREY, COL DE*, 575

*CHETIF, MONT*, 528

*CHEVAL BLANC*, 569

— *FER À*, 569

*CHÈVRES, PAS DE*, 516

*CHEVRIÈRE, ROCHE*, 628

*CHIAFFREDO, PASSO DI SAN*, 660

*CHIALAMBERTO*, 624

*Alb. dell'Albero Fiorito.* fair.

*CHIAPILI*, 583

*CHIASO*, 450

*CHIAVENNA to COLICO and COMO*, 454

*CHINDRIEUX*, 595

*CHIOMONTE*, 610

*CHIUSA, SAN MICHELE DELLA*, 549, 614

*CHIUSELLA, VAL*, 520

*CHIVASSO JUNCT. STAT.*, 520

*CHRISTOMET, CROIX DE.* 592

**CHRISTOPHE, ST.**, 634

*Chez Pierre Turc*; *Chez Antoine Turc*, both poor. *Telegraph*.

**Guides:** *Gaspard* and his sons, best; *Joseph Turc*, *Christophe Roderon*.

*CIAMARELLA*, 623, 625

*CIMA DI JAZZI*, 469, 495

*CIMES BLANCHES PASS*, 488, 505

*CIMETTA*, 437

*CIONA*, 453

*CIRIEGIA, COL DELLA*, 670

*CIRQUE D'ANNIBAL*, 590

*CIVENNA*, 458

*CIVIASCO*, 464, 465

*CLAIR, PONT ST.*, 594

*CLAIRÉE, COL DE*, 615

*CLAIX, PONT DE*, 632

CLAPIER, COL DE, 611, 615 ;  
MONT, 671, 673

CLAPIER DE FODAN, 583

CLAUX, LES, 638

CLAVANS, 635

*Chez Aubert*, fair (at the upper hamlet).

CLOT EN VALGAUDEMAR, LE, 638

Small *Inn* (fair) opened in 1897 at the hamlet of Le Plaine.

CLOT CHÂTEL, MONTAGNE DE, 640

CLOU, COL DU, 587, 619

CLUSANFE, COL DE, 564

CLUSAZ, LA, 594

CLUSES, 545

*Hotels* : *H. de la Gare* ; *H. Revuz* ; *National* ; *Union*.

— to SIXT, 571

CODÉRA, VAL, 455

COGNE, 577. Ironmines, 577. Ascents from, 577.

PassestoValSavaranche and Val d'Orco, 578

*Hotel* : *H. de la Grivola*, fair, patronized by English climbers for the last 30 years.

*Guides* : fair for expeditions of moderate difficulty. The *Curé Chamonin* is well acquainted with country.

*Tariff* fair—30 fr. for *Grivola* and *Grand St. Pierre* ; 60 fr. (high) for the *Grand Paradis* ; 12 fr. for *Tersiva* ; 35 fr. for *Col de Grand Crou* ; 6 fr. to *Glacier de Trajo*.

— to FORT BARD by Val Champorecher, 589

—\* to AOSTA over the Becca di Nona, 525, or by the Col du Drinc, 578

— to PONTE in Val d'Orco by the Col della Nouva, 579 ; by the Fenêtre de Champorcher and Col della Reale, 580

COISE, 606

COLICO, 455

*Hotels* : *All' Isola Bella* and *Angelo*, both on Piazza Garibaldi, poor and not clean.

COLICO—*contd.*

Railway to Lecco now open.

COLLERIN, COL DE, 623, 625

COLLON, MONT, 514, 515

— COL DE, 517, 520

COLLONEY, POINTE DU, 571

COLMA, COL DE, 464

COLMARS, 665

*Hotels* : *H. de France* (*Maurel*), good ; *H. Roux*.

COLOMB, PASSO DI, 671

COLONNAZ, 571

COLONNE DE JOUX, 590

COLOURET, GRAND, 583

COMACINA, ISOLA, 458

COMBAL, LAC DE, 529, 560

COMBE DE GAVET, 632

— DE MALAVAL, 635

— DE SAVOIE, 592

COMBETTA, POINTE DE LA, 484, 487

COMBIN, GRAND, 539, 540

— DE CORBASSIÈRE, 540

— PETIT, 540

COMBLOUX, 591

COMBOE, 525. Permission should be procured beforehand to occupy the hut fitted up by M. Carrel.

COMO, 459. Cathedral, 459. Statue of Volta, 459. Lake of, 455

*Hotels* : *Volta*, good ; *Métropole* and *Suisse*, well spoken of ; *Cavour* ; *Italia* ; *Bellevue* (*Marinoni*). The omnibus from the big Hotel at Cernobbio awaits travellers at the Como station.

—\* to LUGANO and BELLINZONA by the Monte Ceneri, 447

—\* to BAVENO by Lugano and Luino, 450

COMOLOGNO, 443, 446

*Inn*.

CONFLANS, 592, 617

CONTAMINES, 558

*Hotels* : *H. de l'Union* ; *H. du Bonhomme*—both fair, accommodation best on road.

CONTRA, 437

COOLIDGE, PIC, 640

CORBASSIÈRE GLACIER, 538, 539, 540

CORMET, COL DU, 593

CORNIER, GRAND, 510

— COL DU, 510

CORONAS, COL, 578

CORTLIS CHALET, 483

CORZONERA, 580

*Osteria del Stambecco*.

COS, LAC DU, 606

COSSILLA, 485

*Hydrop. Establ.*

COSTE ROUGE, COL DE LA, 639

COTTIAN ALPS, 426

COURMAYEUR (BATHS), 527

*Hotels* : *H. Royal* (*Bertolini's*), best, very good and comfortable, but dear ; *Angelo*, also good ; *Union* ; *H. du Mont Blanc*, at hamlet of La Saxe,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. beyond Courmayeur, good and finely situated, cheaper ; *Etablissement hydro-thérapique*, recommended. All take visitors *en pension*.

*Eng. Ch. S.* (C.C.C.S.) : in the Vaudois Ch.

*Diligence* : Coupé to Aosta, 6 fr.

*Carriages* : 1-horse carr. to Aosta, 15 fr.

*Guides* : Divided into *glacier guides*, *muleteers*, and *porters*. For first traveller has free choice ; muleteers take turn on list. *Laurent Proment*, *Alexis Berthod* (dit le Français) are recommended as glacier guides. *Tariff* for guides (backfare included) : Crammont, 8 fr. ; Mont Chetif, 6 fr. ; Mont de la Saxe, 6 fr. ; Gl. de la Brenva, 4 fr. ; Jardin de Miage, 6 fr. ; Col de Chéruit, 5 fr. (by Lac de Combal, 6 fr.) ; Grandes Jorasses, 70 fr. ; Col du Géant and back, 15 fr. ; Chamonix, by Cols de la Seigne and du Bonhomme, in 2 days, 20 fr. ; in 3 days, 30 fr. ; by Col du Géant, 50 fr. ; by Col de Miage, 50 fr. ; by Mont Blanc, 100 fr. each guide ; Martigny, by Col Ferret, 20 fr.



**COURMAYEUR**—*ctd.*

—\* to TURIN by the Val d'Aosta, 520  
 —\* to ORSIÈRES and MARTIGNY by Col Ferret, 542  
 —\* to the GREAT ST. BERNARD by the Col de Fenêtre, 544; \*by the Col Serena or Col de St. Rémy, 544; by the Cols de Sapin, d'Arterêva, de Bellecombe and de St. Rémy, 529  
 —\* to CHAMONIX by the Allée Blanche and Cols de la Seigne, du Bonhomme, and de Voza, 557; by Cols de la Seigne, du Mont Tondue, and de Voza, 558; by Col du Géant, 566; by Col de Miage, 565  
 —to BOURG ST. MAURICE by Little St. Bernard, 588  
 COURNÈRE, COL DE VAL, 504, 505, 518  
 COURNOUR, PUNTA, 646, 651  
 COUVERCLE, 551  
 COUX, COL DE, 573  
 COUZ WATERFALL, 596  
 CRAMMONT, 527  
 CRAVATE OF THE MATTERHORN, 499  
 CRAVEGGIA BATHS, 446  
 CREMONA JUGUM, 528  
 CRÊT, COL DU, 538  
 CRETAZ, 577  
 CRÊTE SÈCHE, COL DE, 517  
 CRINER PASS, 443  
**CRISSOLO**, 656  
 Hotels: *Alb. del Gallo* (Pilatone); *Alb. della Corona* (Bessone)—fairly kept.  
 Guides—several competent; Francesco and Claudio Perotti are fair.  
 CRISTALLINA PASS, 445  
 CRISTILLAN, COL DE, 667  
 CRIVELLA, CASTLE OF, 674  
 CROCE, MONTE DELLA, 466  
 CROCE GRANDE, COL DELLA, 485  
 CROCETTA, COL DELLA, 582, 624  
 CROCIONE, MONTE, 458  
 CROIX, COL DE LA, near Abriès, 653  
 — DE CHRISTOMET, 592  
 — DES PELLIS, 569

CROIX DE CULET, 573  
 — DE FER, 563, 564, 571;  
 COLS DE LA, 606, 611  
 — DE FEUILLETTE, 619  
 — DE ROLETTA, 584  
 — DU BONHOMME, 560  
 — LA GRANDE (on Mont Cenis), 612  
 CROMWELL, OLIVER, 652  
 CRUET, 606  
 —, NANT, 589  
 CUCHERON, COL DU, 596  
 CULET, CROIX DE, 573  
**CULOZ STAT.**, 594  
 Hotels: *H. Folliet*, civil people; *H. Mémou*, both near stat.; *Buffet*.  
 — to AIX-LES-BAINS and CHAMBERY, 594  
**CUNEO**, 672  
 Hotels: *Barra di Ferro* (*Posta*), good; *H. de Londres*.  
 — to EMBRIUN by the Col de l'Argentière, 661  
 — to NICE, 669  
 — to NICE OR MENTONE by the Col de Tenda, 671  
 CUORGNÈ, 581  
*Corona Grossa; Cannon d'Oro*, tolerable.  
 Carriages: 1-horse carr. to Noasca, 16 fr.  
 CUREGLIA, 454  
 CUVIO VALLEY, 455  
 CUZZAGO, 435

D.

DALMAS LE SAUVAGE, ST., 666  
**DALMAZZO, BORGO SAN**, 662, 673  
 Hotels: *Due Galline; Delfino; Barra di Ferro*.  
**DALMAZZO, SAN, DI TENDA**, 673  
*Pension*: Accommodation excellent, 8 fr. a day everything included, situation beautiful, neighbourhood abounds in picturesque scenes.  
 Eng. Ch. S. (S.P.G.).  
 — to CUNEO, OR NICE, 669  
 DAMES, PLAN DES, 559  
 DAMIANO, SAN, 661  
*Sole*, good; *Angelo; Croce Bianca*.

DARD, CASCADES DU, 525, 550  
 DARENTASIA, ANC., 617. Supposed site, 626  
 DAUPHIN, LE, 635  
 — MONT, 654  
*H. de la Gare*, near stat. See *GUILLESTRE*.  
 — to SALUZZO by the Col de la Traversette, 654  
 —\* to PIGNEROL and VAUDOIS VALLEYS by the Col de la Croix, 647  
 DAUPHINÉ ALPS, 426, 633, 637  
 — INNS, 428  
 DÉFAGO, GALERIE, 573  
**DÉGIOZ**, 584  
*H. du Grand Paradis*, good and clean mountain quarters and civil landlord, but very high prices.  
 DEMONTE, 662  
*Alb. Garibaldi*.  
 DENT BLANCHE, 514  
 — DE BONAVEAU, 573  
 — DU CHAT, 597. Pass of, 597  
 — DU MIDI, 578  
 — PARRACHÉE, 611  
 DENTS BLANCHES, 573  
 DÉROCHOIR, COL DU, 571  
 DERVIO, 456  
 DESAIX, GENERAL, grave, 535  
 DEUX NANTS, 607  
 — ENTRE, 569, 618  
 DIABLE, VAL DU, 634  
 DIABLONS, 508, 510  
 — COL DES, 508, 510  
**DIDIER, PRÉ ST.**, (baths), 527  
*Univers*, good.  
**DIGNE**, 665  
 Hotels: *H. Boyer-Mistre; Rémusat; H. du Grand Paris*.  
 — to BARCELONNETTE, 665  
 DISTEL CHALETS, 472  
 DOBBIA, COL DE VAL, 481  
 DOGS OF ST. BERNARD, 535  
 DOLENT, COL, 567  
 — GLACIER DU MONT, 543  
 DOLLONE, MONT, 528  
 DOM (MISCHABELHÖRNER), 474, 490  
 DOMASO, 456  
 DÔME DU GOÛTER, 549, 552, 557

**DOMO D'OSSOLA**, 435

*Hotels: H. de la Ville*  
or *de la Poste*, very good;  
*H. d'Espagne*, fair.

*Carr.:* 1 horse to *Pal-*  
*lanza*, 15 fr.

— to **BAVENO**, 435

— to **LOCARNO** by the *Val*  
*Vigezzo*, 446

— to **CANNOBIO**, 446

— to **MACUGNAGA**, 467

—\* to **MATTMARK SEE** by  
the *Val Antrona*, 435,  
473

—\*to **SAAS** by the *Val Bog-*  
*nanco* and the *Zwisch-*  
*bergen* pass, 475; \*by  
the *Val Antrona*, 474

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**DONNAZ**, 521

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**DORMILLOUSE**, COL DE, 664

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627

**DOVES BLANCHES**, POINTE  
DES, 515, 516

**DRAGONATA TORRENT**, 447

**DRANO**, 453

**DRANSE**, RIVER (in *Val de*  
*Bagnes*), inundation,  
539; *D'ABONDANCE*, 574

**DREIZEHNTENHORN**, 506

**DRINC**, COL DU, 578

**DROMADAIRE**, BOSSES DU,  
549, 556, 557

*Cabane Vallot.*

**DRONERO**, 661

*Leone d'Oro*; and  
others.

**DRU**, AIGUILLE DU, 550, 551,  
557

**DUFOUR SPITZE**, 470, 496

**DUINGT**, CHÂTEAU, 601

**DURANCE RIVER**, its source,  
642

**DURAND**, COL, 501, 502, 509

— *GLACIER*, 509, 541

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**E.**

**EAU MORTE**, 603

— *NOIRE*, 562

**EBIHORN**, 502

**ECANDIES**, COL DES, 563

**ECHELLES**, LES, 603

*Durand*; *St. Jean Bap-*  
*tiste.*

**ECHELLES DE PLAMPINET**,  
COL DES, 607, 642

**ECRINS**, COL DES, 639

— *POINTE DES*, 633, 639,  
640

**EGGINER**, 474

**EGUA**, COL D', 467, 478

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**EINFISCHTHAL** (*VAL D'AN-*  
*NIVIERS*), 507, 509

**EISON**, 512

**ELVA**, 660

— *PELVO D'*, 659, 660

**EMBRUN**, 665

*Hotels: H. Thouard*;

*H. de la Poste* (*Masson*);

*H. des Alpes.*

—\* to **CUNEO** by the *Col*  
*de l'Argentière*, 661

**EMILE PIC**, COL, 639

**EMILIUS**, MONT, 525, 526,  
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**ENCEL**, PAS D', 570, 573

**ENCHASTRAYES**, MONT, 664

**ENCLAVE DE LA FENÊTRE**,  
594

**ENCLAVES**, COL D', 559

— *ROCHERS DES*, 594

— *TÊTE D'*, 559

**ENCOMBRES**, COL DES, 607,  
626

**ENCULA**, CRÊTE DE L', 634,  
639

**ENDERLIN**, VILLA, 451

**ENFER** (OR *ENCEL*), PAS D',  
570, 573

**ENTRAIGUES GLEN**, 638

**ENTRAQUE**, 671

*Angelo*; *Moro.*

**ENTRAUNES**, 666

**ENTRE-DEUX-EAUX**, 621, 629

*Chez Richard*, poor and  
rough quarters.

— *DEUX-NANTS*, 569, 618

**ENTREMONT**, 594.

*H. Duc.*

**ENTRÈVES**, VAL D', 527

**EPAISSEUR**, AIG. DE L', 631

**EPINEL**, 577

*Cantine.*

**EPOREDIA** (*IVREA*), 520

**ERBA**, 458

**ESCARÈNE**, L', 674

*H. de Paris.*

**ESCREINS VALLEY**, 667

**ESINO**, 457

*Alb. Moncodine.*

**ESSEILLON**, FORT DE L', 611

**ETABLONS** (OR *DE VERBIER*),  
COL D', 538

**ETANÇONS**, VALLON DES, 641

**ETIENNE**, ST., 666

*H. de France*, good.

**ETRET**, TÊTE DE L', 640

**ETROUBLES**, 537

*National*; *Croix*  
*Blanche.*

**EVÊQUE**, L', 515; COL DE L',  
516, 520

**EVIRES STAT.**, 599

**EVOLENA**, 513. *Excursion*, 513

*H. de la Dent Blanche*  
(*Spahr*, owner of the new  
inn at *Arolla*), good and  
comfortable; *Grand Hôtel*  
(owned by *M. Anzevui*  
of *H. du Mont Collon*,  
*Arolla*), opened in 1892,  
large.

*Eng. Ch. S.* (*C.C.C.S.*).

*Guides: A. Bovier*

*Gaspoz*, *Pralong*, *Pierre*  
*Beytrison*, all good. *Tariff*  
for guides and horses.

— to **Sion**, 512

— to the *VAL DE BAGNES*,  
516

— to **ZERMATT** by the *Col*  
*d'Hérens*, 518; from  
*AROLLA*, 514

— \*to **ST. LUC**, 511

— \*to **ZINAL**, 511

**EXILLES**, FORT, 610

**EYCHAUDA**, COL DE L', 636, 638

**EYSSALETTE**, COL DE L', 664

**F.**

**FABRICAE** (*FAVERGES*), 602

**FALLÈRE**, MONT, 537

**FARIÔLO**, 466

*Leone d'Oro*, attentive  
landlord.

**FAUCIGNY**, CHÂTEAU, 545

**FAURIO**, ROCHE, 634

**FAVERGES**, 602

*Hotels: Poste*, good;  
*Genève.*

**FAVRE**, MONT, 591

**FAYET**, LE, 547

**FEDELE**, SAN, 453

**FEE**, 474

*Hotels: H. & P. du*  
*Dôme*; *Hôtel Bellevue*;  
*Grand Hôtel Saas Fee*;  
all in same hands as the  
*H. de la Poste* at *Visp*,  
and the hotel at *Stalden*,  
large and very comfort-



**FEE—contd.**

able; *H. de Saas Fee*, also good, cheaper (same owner as *H. des Alpes* at Visp). Telegraph and English Ch. (C.C.C.S.).

FELIKJOCH, 484, 501

FELL'S MONT CENIS RAILWAY, 611

FENERA, MONTE, 460

FÉNESTRELLE, village and fort, 643

*Rosa Rossa*, good; *Tre Re*, tolerable.

The steam tramway from Perosa does not exist, though its timetable appears in the official Italian railway *Indicatore*.

FENÊTRE, COL DE (Val de Bagnes), 542; (near Great St. Bernard), 544

— COL DE LA (near Susa), 644

— ENCLAVE DE LA, 594

FÉNIS CASTLE, 488, 523

FER-À-CHEVAL, 569

FER, CROIX DE, 563, 564, 571

— COLS DE LA, 606, 611

FERPÊCLE, 513, 519

*H. du Col d'Hérens*, at Salay Chalets, small but good.

Eng. Ch. S. (S.P.G.).

FERRARI, GAUDENZIO, works by, 438, 441, 464. At Varallo, 461. Birthplace, 460

FERRET, COL, 542

Small *Inn* at the Swiss Ferret chalets.

— PETIT, 543

FERRIÈRE, LA, 606

*H. Ramus*.

FERRO, SASSO DI, 439

FERVENTO, 478

*Inn*, clean.

FEUILLETTE, CROIX DE, 619

FIER, GORGES DU, 601

FIÉRY, 488

*H. des Cimes Blanches*, rebuilt in 1891 and comfortable.

FIÈRE, 640

FIGINO, 450, 453

FINDLEN GLACIER, 491, 500

On the right bank *Fluhalp Inn* (footpath from the Findelen hamlet); on the left bank,

**Findelen Glacier—contd.**

*Grünsee Inn* (mule path from Zermatt).

**FINHAUT, 564**

Hotels: *Grd. H Terminus* (new) and *H. du Peron* (same owner); *H. Mt. Fleuri*, new; *Bel-Oiseau* (comfortable); *Mt. Blanc*; *Croix Fédérale*; towards Châtelard, *Finshauts*; *Grd. Combin*; *Beauséjour*; *Chalet Suisse*, all cheap.

Eng. Ch. S. (S.P.G.): at *H. Mt. Fleuri*.

**FIONNAY, 538**

Hotels: *H. & P. du Grand Combin* (formerly *Rosa Blanche*), opened 1890, very good and clean, best stopping-place in upper Val de Bagnes. There is a smaller *Inn* at the upper end of the village, *H. Fionney* (Carron), built by owner of Mauvoisin *Inn*.

—\* to the VAL D'HÉRÉMENCE by the Col de Sévren, 538

FIZ, CHAÎNE DES, 553, 571-2

FLAINE, LAC DE, 571

FLÉGÈRE, 552, 553

**FLUMET, 592**

Hotels: *Cheval Blanc*; *H. des Balances*, clean; *Mont Blanc*.

**FOBELLO, 465, 477**

Hotels: *H. d'Italie*; *Posta*—both fair, good-sized country inns.

FOGLIETTA, CROIX DE LA, 619

FOLLATS, LES, 540

FOLLY, LA, 543

FOND DE LA COMBE, 569

FONDS, VALLÉE DES, 570

Small *Inn* at the highest Fonds chalets.

FONTAINE BLEUE, 523

— DES MERVEILLES, 596

FONTAINES D'UGINES, 603

*H. Carrin*; *H. de Chamonix*.

FONTAN, 674

FONTANA (architect), birthplace, 447

FONTANA FREDDA, PUNTA, 505

Fontcouverte, 630

Font Sancte, Pointe de La, 667

FORCIOLLINE, VAL DELLE, 659, 660

FORCLAZ, COL DE LA (near St. Gervais), 546, 547, 558; (on Tête Noire Rte.), 563

FORCLETTA, PAS DE LA, 507

FORNET, 587

*Inn*, small, kept by ex-garde chasse of King of Italy, good centre for exploring neighbourhood.

FORNO, 465

*Leone d'Oro*, clean.

FORNO-ALPI-GRAIE, 625

*Alb. delle Alpi*, disgusting in every respect.

FOROGLIO, 444

FORON, MONT, 591

— STREAM, 545

FORT BARD, 521, 580

— BRIANÇON, 637

— DE L'ESSEILLON, 611

— FÉNESTRELLE, 643

FORT FUENTES, 455

— LITTLE ST. BERNARD, 590

— MONT DAUPHIN, 654

— DE TOURNOUX, 663, 666

FORUM CLAUDII (Aime, in the Tarentaise), 618

FORZO, COL and VAL DI, 579

FOURCLA, COL DE, 590

FOURS, COL DES, 560; DE FOURS, 666

FOUX, LA, 666; Foux (or d'Allos), COL DE, 666

**FOY, STE., 588, 619**

Hotels: *H. du Mt. Blanc*, fair; *H. Gacon*.

—\* to the VAL GRISANCHE and Aosta by the Col du Mont, 586; by the Col de la Sachère, 587

FRANCHET, ROCHERS DE, 620

FRANCIS DE SALES, ST. See SALES.

FRÉAUX, LES, lead mines, 635

FREISSINIÈRES, VAL DE, 653

FRÉJUS, COL and POINTE DE, 607

FREMAMORTA, COL DE, 670

FRÊNE, COL DU, 606

FRÉNEY, LE, 630, 635

*Europe (Chez Reymond)*, fair.

—\* to ST. JEAN DE MAURIENNE by the Col des

**FRÉNEY, LE**—*contd.*

Prés Nouveaux and Col d'Arves, 629

— to VÉNOSC by the Col de l'Alpe, 634

FRÊTES, CHAÎNE DES, 546

FRÉTY, MONT, 566. 2¼ hrs. above Courmayeur. A charming object for an afternoon's walk.

*Pavillon* (8 beds), reasonable prices.

FRILIJOCH, 507

FRIOLAND, MONTE, 657

FRUDIÈRE, BEC DE, 484

FUENTES, FORT, 455

FURGGJOCH, 504

FURGGTHAL, 474

FUSIO, 444

*H. Dazio*, fair.

FYS, ROCHERS DES, 553, 571, 572

**G.**

GABELHORN, 499, 502

GABIET SEE, 480

GABY, 484

*Albergo dei Colli Vecchia e Mologna*, opened in 1897.

GALAMBRE, COL DE, 610

GALIBIER, COL DU, 631, 636

*Break* across from the Lautaret Hospice to St. Michel stat. in 6 hrs. (reverse direction, 8¾ hrs.).

GALISE, COL DELA, 583, 621

— POINTE DE LA, 583, 621

GAMBETTA FAMILY, 446

GAMSERJOCH, 475

GANDOLIÈRE, TÊTE DE LA, 640

GANDRIA, 453

GARDETTE GOLD MINES, 633

GASSENRIED GLACIER, 476

GASTALDI, PUNTA, 659

GAVET, COMBE DE, 632

GÉANT, AIGUILLE DU, 557, 566

— COL DU, 529, 566

GÉBROULAZ, COL DE, 627

GELAS, CIMA DEI, 670, 671

GELÉ, MONT, 517, 542

GEMSHORN, 481

**GENEROSO,****MONTE**, 448

*H.-P. Monte Generoso*, Dr. Pasta's, large, excellent, moderate, built

**GENEROSO,**  
**MONTE**—*contd.*

1865-6, open from May to Oct., nearly 4000 ft. above sea, S. exposure. Telegraph.

**Engl. Ch. S. (C.C.C.S.).**

On the summit of M. Generoso is a large and good Restaurant, while a large new Hotel (over 100 beds) was opened there in 1892.

GENEVA to CHAMONIX, 544

—\* to SIXT, 568

— to ANNECY and AIX-LES-BAINS, 599

GENÈVRE, BOURG MONT, 642

*Chez Balcet*, poor.

— MT., PASS, 614, 641

GENTILINO, 453

GERMAIN, ST., 591

*Inn*, very poor.

— CASTLE, 522

GERMANASCA, VAL, 646

GERMAN COLONIES in Italy, 435, 443, 469, 471, 472, 482

— in Savoy, 562, 569

GERMANO, SAN, 646

*Ours*, clean.

GERS, LAC DE, 569

**GERVAIS, ST.**, 547.

Baths, 547

**Hotels: Etablissement Thermal**, pension and bath. exclusive of wine, 10-15 fr. a day, in narrow ravine, swept away in 1892; but now rebuilt lower down, 10 min. from *Le Fayet*. In the village are: *H. du Mont Joly*, pension 8-10 fr. a day, excellent; *H. du Mont Blanc*, also good; *H. des Etrangers* (formerly *Voyageurs*), excellent cooking and beds, open all year round; *H. Lamois*, comfortable; *Genève*; *Vue des Glaciers*; *Panoramas*, and many pensions.

**Eng. Ch. S. (C.C.C.S.):** at H. du Mont Joly.

— to CHAMONIX by the Cols de Voza, and de la Forclaz, 547

— ascent of Mt. Blanc, 557

GESSENS, PHARE DE, 596

GETS, LES, 568, 574

GHIGO, 652. *See* PRALI.

The Waldensian pastor receives strangers.

GIACOMO, PASSO DI SAN, 445

GIANAVELLO, the Vaudois chief, birthplace, 649

GIANDOLA, 674

*H. des Etrangers*, a good mountain Inn.

GIÉTROZ (GÉTROZ), GLACIER, 516, 538

— COL DE, 516

GIETTAZ, LA, 594

*H. du Col des Aravis*, small, comfortable.

GIFFRE, BAS, 569

GIGNOD, 537

GILLY, DR., 647

GIMILIAN, 577

GIOMEIN, above BREUIL, 504

*H. du Mt. Cervin*, good.

*See* BREUIL.

GIORIO, S., 614

GIOVANNI, SAN, 486; (LUSERNA), 647

GIRARD, COL DE, 623, 625

GIROTTAZ, LAC DE LA, 594

GITTANA, 457

GITTE; VAL DE LA, 593

GIULIA, VILLA, 458

GLACIER, BLANC, COL DU, 635, 639

GLACIÈRES (ice-caves), 602

GLACIERS, AIGUILLE DES, 560

GLANDON, COL DU, 606

GLETSCHER ALP, 474

GOILLE à VASSU, 533

GOÎTREUX, VILLARD, 628

GOLD-MINES, 468, 479, 480, 483, 633

GOLÉON, AIG. DU, 635; COL DU, 631, 635

GOLÈSE, COL DE LA, 573

GOLETTA, COL DE LA, 585

GOLETTE DE L'OULAZ, 571

GORDOLA, 436, 445

GORGES DU FIER, 601

GORNER GLACIER, 492

— GRAT, 492

*Hotel and Restaurant Belvédère*, on the summit.

GOUFFRE DES BOUSSE-RAILLES, 504

GOULAZ, LA, 623

GOÛTER, DÔME DU, 549, 552, 557

— AIGUILLE DU, 549, 552, 557



GRAIAN ALPS, 426  
 GRANA, VAL, 661  
 GRAND BEC, 627, 628  
 — COLOURET, 583  
 — COMBIN, 539, 540  
 — CROU, COL DE, 579  
 — PARADIS, 531, 578, 584  
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 — REVAR, 596  
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 — CROIX, LA, 612  
 — MOTTE, 621, 629  
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 — MULETS, 556, 557  
*Auberge*, 12 fr. a night  
 per person.

GRANERO, MONTE, 653, 656  
 GRANIER, MONT, 599, 605  
 GRANTA PAREI, 585  
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 590

GRATELO, LAC DE, 627  
 GRATIANOPOLIS (Grenoble),  
 632

GRAUHAUPT, 483  
 GRAVE, AIGUILLE DU MIDI  
 DE LA, 635  
 — LA, EN OISANS, 635

*Hôtel de la Meije (Juge)*,  
 much enlarged (80 beds),  
 good fare and beds; *H.*  
*des Alpes*. 3 hrs. above is  
 the *Chalet Hôtel Chancel*  
*or de la Lauze*. Guides:  
*Glacier guides with tariff*.  
 The best are *Giraud-  
 Lézin*, *L. Faure*, *J. Ma-  
 thon*, *Emile Pic*, and  
*Jules Bouillet*.

GRAVEDONA, 456  
*Alb. Gravedona*, fair.

GRAVELLONA TOCE, 436

GREMENZ, 509, 511, 512

*H. des Bacs de Bosson*.

GRENAIRON, COL DU, 562,  
 570

**GRENOBLE** (popula-  
 tion 60,439, on Dec. 31,  
 1891), 632

Hotels: *H. Monnet*,  
 on the Place Grenette,  
 recommended, electric  
 light, best; *Grand H.*  
*Primat*, just off the Place  
 Grenette, new and large,  
 electric light—both have  
 excellent Restaurants:

# **GRENOBLE—contd.**

*H. de l'Angleterre*, in the  
 new quarter; *Trois Dau-  
 phins*, commercial house,  
 well spoken of, lately  
 refitted; *H. de l'Europe*,  
 on Place Grenette.

Eng. Ch. S. (S.P.G.).

Booksellers: *Falque*  
*and Perrin*, Place Victor  
 Hugo, speciality of Al-  
 pine and artistic books;  
*Gratier*, Grande Rue,  
 keeps all works of local  
 interest and good pho-  
 tographs; *X. Drevet*;  
*Baratier*.

Tramway and Dili-  
 gences: By new steam  
 tramway in 2¼ hrs. to  
*Bourg d'Oisans*. From  
*Bourg d'Oisans* to *Bri-  
 ançon* takes 9 hrs.; char  
 from *Bourg d'Oisans* to  
*Briançon* 40 or 50 fr.

— to BRIANÇON by Bourg  
 d'Oisans and the Col du  
 Lautaret, 631; by Gap,  
 632

— to BOURG D'OISANS by  
 the baths of Uriage,  
 632

**GRESSONEY (ST.  
 JEAN)**, 481, 482

Hotels: *Delapierre's*,  
 excellent; *Monte Rosa*  
*(Linty's)*, good; *Lys-  
 kamm*.

—\* to ALAGNA by the  
 Col d'Olen, 481; \*by the  
 Col de Val Dobbia, 481  
 — to PONT ST. MARTIN in  
 the Val d'Aosta, 484

— to CHÂTILLON by the  
 Col de la Ranzola and  
 Col de Jon, 486

— to the VAL D'AYAS by  
 the Bettaforca, or the  
 Bettliner Pass, 488

— to BREUIL OR ZERMATT  
 by the Cimes Blanches,  
 488

**GRESSONEY (LA TRI-  
 NITÉ)**, 481, 482

*H. Thedy*, good moun-  
 tain Inn. 20 min. further  
 down the valley is the  
 new and first class *Hôtel*  
*Miravalle*.

GRÉSY WATERFALL, 596

GRÉYOU (OR CRIOU), MONT,  
 569

GRIGNA (OR Moncodine), 457  
 GRISANCHE, VAL, 586

— EGLISE DE VAL, 586  
*Cantine du Col du Mont*,  
 small but tolerable.

— to STE. FOY in the Val  
 de Tignes by the Col du  
 Mont, 587; by the Col  
 de la Sachère, 587

— to LA THUILLÉ, on the  
 Little St. Bernard, by  
 the Cols de la Loys  
 Blanche and du Tachuy,  
 588

— to TIGNES by the Col  
 de Bassac Déré, 587; by  
 the Col de la Sassiére,  
 587

— to LA THUILLÉ DE STE.  
 FOY by the Col Vaudet,  
 587, 619; or Col du Clon,  
 587, 619

— to the VAL DE RHÈMES,  
 587

GRIVOLA, Ascent of, 577,  
 584

GROISY LE PLOT, 599

GROSCAVALLO, 625

*Inn*, good.

GRUBEN. See ZMEIDEN.

GRUND, IN, 473. See SAAS.

GUÉRISON, N. D. DE (OR DU  
 BERRIER), 561

GUGEL, 493

GUIL, VALLEY OF THE, 653,  
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**GUILLESTRE**, 654

Hotels: *H. Imbert*,  
 best; *H. Ferrary* (Vedel).

Diligence twice daily,  
 reaching *Abriès* in 5 hrs.

GUISANNE, VALLEY OF THE,  
 636

GULA, PONTE DELLA, 463, 477

GURRE, LA, 619

## H.

HANNIBAL'S PASSAGE OF THE  
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HAUDÈRES, 513, 514

*H. du Mt. Collon*; *H.*  
*des Haudères*.

HAUTE COMBE, 596

HAUTENNA GLACIER, 516,  
 541

HÉLÈNE DES MILLIÈRES,  
 STE., CHÂTEAU, 616

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 HERBRIGEN, 490  
 HEREFORD 'Use,' 606  
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**HOTELS**, Italian, 428 ;  
 In Savoy and Dauphiné, 428  
 HOUCHES, LES, 548, 558  
*H. du Glacier*, small.  
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 — MONT, 637  
 — GORGE OF, 634  
 INFERNETTO, PASSO DELL', 640, 651  
 INGRIA, 580  
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**INTRA**, 439  
*Hotels: Vitello d'Oro and Leone d'Oro*, now united.  
 INTRAGNA, 437, 446  
*Bustallo's*.  
 INTRASCA, VAL, 439  
 Good Inn at Premeno.  
 INTROBBIO, 457, 460  
 Inn, tolerable.  
 INVERGNAN, BEC D', 586

INVERNA WIND, 438  
 ISELLA\* to SAAS by the Zwischbergen pass, 475  
 ISERAN, COL D', 622  
 — MONT, 622  
**ISÈRE, VAL D'**, 621  
*Hotels: H. Moris*, just outside vill., clean, comfortable, moderate prices, excellent place for stay, best headquarters in Tarentaise; *Chez Bonnevie*, poor.  
*Guides: The Mangards* fair local guides.  
 — to BONNEVAL by the Col d'Iseran, 622  
 — to CERESOLE by the Col de la Galise, 583, 621  
 — to the VAL GRISANCHE, or VAL DE RHÈMES, by the Col de la Goletta, 585, 620  
 — to VAL PEISEY, 620  
 — to THERMIGNON by the Col de la Leisse, 620

ISOLA, 666

*H. Combe*.

**ISOLA BELLA**, 440

*Hotels: Delfino*, very fair; *Vapore*.

— CANNERO, 438

— COMACINA, 458

— DI SAN GIULIO, 464

— MADRE, 441

— DEI PESCATORI, 441

ISOLINA DI SAN GIOVANNI, 441

ISSIME, 484

*H. Mont Nery* (Dela-pierre of Gressony), opened in 1897.

ISSOGNE, CASTLE, 522

ITALIAN COLONY IN SWITZERLAND, 471, 472

**IVREA**, 485, 520

*Hotels: Scudo di Francia*, good cuisine, moderate charges; *Univer-so; Corona d'Italia*.

— to COURMAYEUR, 520

IZOUARD (or D'HYZOAR), COL D', 653

## J.

JANDRI, 634

JANZO, 481

*Albergo Alpino*, small and clean.

JARDIN (at Chamonix), 551  
 — DE MIAGE, 530  
 JAZZI, CIMA DI, 469, 495  
 JEAN D'ARVES, ST., 630

*Chez Grand*, at La Tour, rough, but improving.

— to LA GRAVE, by the Col de l'Infernet, 630

JEAN DE MAURIENNE, ST., 607

*H. de la Gare*, well spoken of; *Europe; St. Georges*.

—\* to CHAMBÉRY, 605

—\* to TURIN by the Mont Cenis pass, 605

— to MOÛTIERS by the Col de la Platière, 607

— to BOURG D'OISANS by the Col d'Arves and Col des Prés Nouveaux, 630

JEAN DE SIXT, ST., 594

JEOIRE, ST., 568

*Couronne; Alpes*.

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— COL DU, 558

JON (or JOUX), COL DE, 487, 522

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JOUVET, MONT, 617

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LACHAT, MONT, 557

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LAMONE, 447

LANCEBRANCELETTE, 590

LANSLEBOURG, 611, 624

*H. Alexandre Valloire*, fair.

— to SUSA and TURIN by the Mont Cenis, 611; by the Little Mont Cenis



**LANSLEBOURG—**

*contd.*

pass and Col de Clapier, 614

—\* to BONNEVAL and BOURG ST. MAURICE by the Col d'Iseran, 622

—\* to TIGNES by the Col de la Leisse, 620; by the Col de la Rocheure, 620

LANS LE VILLARD, 624

— GLACIER DU MONT DE, 634

**LANTOSQUE, 670**

**Hotels:** *H. Andreani*; *H. des Etrangers*, good; *H. Carencio*; *H. des Alpes Maritimes*.

**LANTOSQUE, ST. MARTIN, 670**

**Hotels:** *H. Anglo-Américain*, well kept, excellent food; *H. des Alpes*, fair; *H. Bellevue*; *H. de Londres*; *Pension Raiberti*; *P. Ayraudi*.

**Eng. Ch. S. (S.P.G.).**

**Guides:** Competent for excursions in the neighbourhood.

**Diligences:** Daily or nightly to *La Vésubie* rly. stat. in  $3\frac{1}{4}$  hrs.

**LANZO, 624**

*Alb. della Posta*, fair.

— **D'INTELVI, 450,**

453, 459

**Hotels:** *H. Belvédère*, comfortable; *Paraviso*, fair accommodation; *Café Central*, when the two hotels are full.

**Eng. Ch. S. (S.P.G.):** at *H. Belvédère*.

LAQUINHORN, 475

LAQUINJOCH, 475

LARCHE, 663

*Chez Robert*; *Chez Pinoncelly*.

LARIUS, LACUS (LAKE OF COMO), 455

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LATTE, FIUME, 457

LAUIS, 451

LAURENT DU PONT, ST., 603

*Terminus*; *Europe*;

*Princes*.

LAUTARET, COL DE (VALLEY of the UBAYE), 660, 667

— COL DU (near BRIANÇON), 636. *Hospice*, very

**LAUTARET—contd.**

much improved lately. *New Inn*, 100 rooms (Swiss chalet style) opposite, kept by same people. *Break* in 6 hrs. to St. Michel over the Col du Galibier ( $8\frac{3}{4}$  in the reverse direction). A new road is to be constructed direct from the Galibier to the Hospice past the Mandette huts.

LAUZE, COL DE LA, 634, 635

Between the Col and La Grave, the little mountain inn, called *Refuge Evariste Chancel*.

LAUZET, LE, 664

*H. Dou*.

LAUZON, COL DU, 578, 584

**LAVENO, 439, 450**

**Hotels:** *Posta*, good, best; *Il Moro*.

LAVERTEZZO, 445

*Inn*, poor.

LAVINA, PUNTA, 578

LAVIZZARA, VAL, 444

LAZZONEY, COL DE, 486

**LECCO, 459**

**Hotels:** *Croce di Malta*, dear; *Corona d'Italia*, fair; *Due Torri*; *Leone d'Oro*.

**Railway** from here to Colico open.

**Steamers:** 3 daily from Colico, 4 from Como. To Bellagio,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr.

LÉCHAUD, COL DE, 554, 570

LEGNONE, ascent of, 456

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LESCHAUX, COL DE, 566;

GLACIER DE, 551

LEVANNA, 582, 583, 623, 625

LEVENS, 671

*H. National*; *Etrangers*.

LEVIONA CHALETS, 578

LIAPPEY, 512

**LIDDES, 532**

**Hotels:** *H. du Grand St. Bernard* at N. end of village, new and looks very nice; *Beauséjour*; *Union*, fair; *Angleterre*, poor.

**LIMONE, 673**

**Hotels:** *Posta*; *Europa*.

LIVEROGNE, 527, 586

*Cantine du Col du Mont*.

**LOCANA, 581, 624**

**Hotels:** *Corona Grossa*; *Tre Pernici*, tolerable.

**LOCARNO, 436**

**Hotels:** *Grand H. Locarno*, a large and excellent house, prices high; *Corona*, by the lake, very good and comfortable, less expensive and quieter than its rival; *H. du Parc*; *H. Belvédère*; *Albergo Svizzero*, good, clean, and cheap, Italian cooking; *P. Reber*; *P. Beau-Rivage*; *P. Villa Muralto*.

**Eng. Ch. S. (C.C.C.S.):** at the Grand H. Locarno.

**Steamers:** Excellent steamers on the Lago Maggiore run between Locarno and Arona in  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., calling at the principal villages; one through service only daily, but several to Luino ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr.) and Stresa ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.), and from Luino to Arona ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.). Good *restaurant* on board. Large parties may engage of the Steamboat Company small private steamers for excursions on the lake.

**Row-boats:** May be hired at any of the ports on the lake. N.B.—Ask for the *turiff*, or bargain beforehand with the boatmen.

**Diligence:** To *Bignasco*, thrice daily, in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

— to AIROLO, 442

— to TOSA FALLS, 444

— to FAÏDO, 445

—\* to DOMO D'OSSOLA by the Val Vigezzo, 446

—\* to BELLINZONA, 436

LOCCIE, COL DELLE, 470, 480

Loco, 446

*Posta*, fair.

## LOGNAN, 567

*Pavillon* (4 beds), reasonable prices.

LOMBARD, COL, 635

LONA, PAS DE, 511, 512

LONGEBORGNE, hermitage, 512

LONGET, COL DE, 660, 667

LOSETTA, CIMA DI, 659

LOSONE, 437

LOUP, PLAN DU, 629

LOUROUSA, COLLE DI, 671

LOURTIER, 538

Small Inn.

LOUZE, COL DE LA, 593, 617

LOVAGNY, 602

LOYS BLANCHE, COL DE LA, 588

LOZETTA. See LOSETTA.

## LUC, ST., 508

**Hotels:** *H. de la Bella Tola*, good, moderate, landlord civil and experienced guide; *Mont Cervin*, new. **Eng. Ch. S. (C.C.C.S.)** at *H. de la Bella Tola*. *H. Weisshorn*, 7546 ft., new, very well spoken of, 1½ hr. above St. Luc. **Eng. Ch. S. (S.P.G.)** at *H. Weisshorn*.

—\* to SIERRE, 508

—\* to SUSTEN by the Illgraben, 508

— to EVOLENA by the Col de Torrent, 511; by the Pas de Lona, 512; by the Col de Bréonna, 512; by the Col de Moiry, 512

— to ZINAL, 509

— to GRUBEN, 507

LUCA, COLLE DI, 660

LUGANO, 451. Cathedral, 451. Excursions, 452. Lake, 454

**Hotels:** *H. du Parc*, pleasantly situated in large garden, with 3 detached villas—*Beauséjour*, *Ceresio*, *Belvédère*, —a large and excellent establishment; but prices high; *H. Splendide*, very good; on lake, and outside town; *H. Reichmann*, also on lake, German; *H. Métropole*

## LUGANO—contd.

and *Lugano*, on quay, well spoken of; *H. Bellevue*; *H. de l'Europe*; *P. Erica*; *P. Paskay*; *H. Capolago*. In a narrow street in town is the *Schweizerhof*; higher up, *H. National*, new. The *H. Washington*, near the stat. in a splendid position. At the station are *H. St. Gotthard*, and *H. Beauregard*, frequented by Germans.

**Pensions:** The *P. Beaurivage* on the lake has new buildings and an excellent position; and there are many other pensions.

**Enquiry Office:**

E. Schmid, via Ponte Tresa, 44

**Eng. Ch. S. (S.P.G.):** at the Hotel du Parc.

**Post Office:** Beside the Cantonal College.

**Theatre:** Beside the Cantonal College.

**Bank:** The Bank of Italian Switzerland (formerly the *H. Bellevue*) is near Cantonal College.

**Steamers:** To Porlezza, five times a day in summer, twice in winter, in 1 hr. or rather more, on the way to Lago di Como, Menaggio, Bellagio, and Cadenabbia; and to Ponte Tresa, calling at Porto Ceresio for Varese (omnibus, 10 m.).

**Railways:** To Bellinzona and Como (Rte. 34 A). The rly. stat. is high above the town, funicular rly. thence to the Boat pier. A funicular rly. runs to the top of Monte Salvatore.

**Boats:** On the lake, with 1 boatman, 2 fr. the hour; with 2, 3 fr. Without a man, 1½ fr. To Porlezza, with 1 rower 7 fr., with 2 rowers, 12 fr.

**Carriages:** A drive round Monte Salvatore

## LUGANO—contd.

by Figino, Morcote, and Melide, 2½ hrs., 2-horse carr., 11 fr.

—\* to BELLINZONA by the Monte Ceneri, 447

— to MENAGGIO and Como, 454

— to LJINO, 450

—\* to BAVENO, 450

LUGGARUS, 436

LUINI, BERNARDINO, painter, birthplace, 450.

Pictures by, 451

LUINO, 438, 450

**Hotels:** *H. Simplon* and *Terminus*, clean and good; *Vittoria*; *Posta*, fair; *La Beccaccia*, fair.

**Carriages:** 2-horse carr. to Lugano 20 fr., 1-horse carr. to Ponte Tresa and Lugano 12 fr.

**Steam Tramway:** To Ponte Tresa, ¾ hr.

— to LUGANO and the LAKE OF COMO, 450

LUISSAS, COL DEL, 652, 657

LUSENEY, BEC and COL DE, 518

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*Alb. Belvédère*.

— S. GIOVANNI, 647

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LYONS to CHAMBERY, 603

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— VAL DE, 482, 487

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## M.

MACOT LEAD-MINES, 618

MACUGNAGA, 468.

Excursion, 469

**Hotels:** *Monte Rosa*, kept by Franz Lochmatter, moderate mountain inn; *Monte Moro*, by Giovanni Oberto, said to be the best; *Belvédère*, smaller than the others. Good mountain inns, and much frequented.

**Eng. Ch. S. (S.P.G.):** at *H. Monte Rosa*.

**Guides:** The best for difficult excursions are



**MACUGNAGA**—*contd.*  
Giov. Oberto, Kaspar  
Burgener, and Clemenz  
Imseng.

— to GRESSONEY, 479  
— to SAAS and VISP by  
the Monte Moro pass,  
471

— \* to the RIFFEL by the  
New Weissthor pass,  
476, 500

— to ALAGNA by the Col  
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Turlo pass, 479

— \* to VARALLO, 478

— \* to DOMO D'OSSOLA by  
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662

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*H. de la Poste.*

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MALCIAUSSIA CHALETS, 626

MALESCO, 446

*Leone d'Oro.*

MALJASSET, 667

*Chez Jean Ollivier*, fair  
mountain quarters.

MALLET, MONT, 551

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667

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MARGOZZOLO. *See* MONTE  
MOTTARONE.

MARIA MAGGIORE, SANTA,  
446

*Croce di Malta*, clean  
bedrooms and good  
fare.

MARITIME ALPS, 426.

MARLIOZ, 596

MAROGGIA, 447

MARONE, PIZZO, 439

MARS, MONT, 485

MARTIGNY, 531, 563

**Hotels:** *Clerc*, first  
rate, but dear; *Mont  
Blanc*, good, electric  
light; *Grand St. Bernard*,  
fair, *Aigle* (recently en-  
larged), moderate, and  
*Gare*, all at stat. (Rte. 56);  
*H. National*, opp. P. O.  
**Eng. Ch. S.:** at H.  
*Clerc*.

**Carriages:** *Bureau*,  
oppos. H. *Clerc*. One  
horse:— to *Chamonix*,  
30 fr. (1 or 2 persons),  
40 fr. (3 persons); to  
*Tête Noire*, 20 fr. (1 or  
2 persons), 25 fr. (3  
persons); to *Great St.  
Bernard*, 30 fr.; to  
*Orsières* or *Chable*, 10 fr.

— \* to CHAMONIX by the  
*Tête Noire* pass, 562; by  
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563; by the Col de  
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*Inn*, tolerable.

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MAURICE BOURG,  
ST., 591, 618

**Hotel:** *H. Mayet* or *des  
Voyageurs*, improved,  
good food.

**Carriages:** To *Cour-  
mayeur*, 2-horse carr. 80  
fr. Courier in 3½ hrs.  
to *Moutiers*.

— \* to ALBERTVILLE and  
CHAMBERY, 616

— \* to COURMAYEUR by the  
Little St. Bernard, 588

— \* to AOSTA by the Val  
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JEAN DE M., ST.

MAURIN, 667. *See* MALJAS-  
SET.

— COL DE, 660, 667

MAUVOISIN, 538

*H. du Glacier de Gietroz*,  
a solitary house, lately  
enlarged, though even  
now having only 15 beds,  
clean but poor. Guides  
and a reasonable tariff.

— \* to AROLLA by the Col  
de Seilon and Pas de  
Chèvres, 516; \* by the

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 — to ST. PIERRE on the Great St. Bernard, by the Col des Maisons Blanches, 539; by the Col du Sonadon, 541  
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 MÉGÈVE, 591  
*Soleil d'Or*, excellent country inn, pension 6 fr.  
 MEIDASSA, MONTE, 653, 656  
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*Hotels: Grand Hôtel Victoria* (90 bedrooms), very good, and not dearer than usual; *Hôtel Menaggio* (70 bedrooms); *Corona*.  
**Eng. Ch. S.** (S.P.G.): at Grand Hôtel Victoria.  
**English Doctor**: see under CADENABIA.  
 —\* to LUGANO and BELLINZONA by the Monte Ceneri, 447, 450  
 —\* to BAVENO by Lugano and Luino, 450  
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*H. Mendrisio*, comfortable. 10 min. by rail from Capolago stat. of M. Generoso railway.  
 MENTHON-LES-BAINS, 601  
*Établissement Thermal* with Restaurant; *H.*

**MENTHON-LES-BAINS**—*contd.*

*de la Vue du Lac*, and two Restaurants besides. Villas may be hired.  
 — CHÂTEAU, 601  
 MENTONE, 674  
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 — to EMBRUN, 664  
 MER DE GLACE at Chamoni, 550  
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*Inn*, fair.  
 MICHEL, ST., 607  
*Alpes du Galibier*, whence starts the break over the Col du Galibier in 8¾ hrs. (6 hrs. reverse direction) to the Lautaret Hospice; *Union*, fair but dirty; *Gare*.  
 —\* to CHAMBÉRY, 605  
 — to TURIN by the Mont Cenis pass, 607  
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*Hotels: H. Cavour; Grd. H. de Milan; H. de la Ville; H. Continental*, —all first class.  
**Eng. Ch. S.** (C.C.C. S.): at 8, Via Andegari.  
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*Hotel: H. International*, opp. stat., good; *Buffet*, good.  
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*Fair Inn*.  
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*Alb. dell' Uja di Mondrone*, poor.  
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*Europe (Izoard)*, fairly good and cheap; *Voyageurs*.  
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**MONTENVERS**, 550  
*Hotel* (60 beds), very  
 comfortable. Telegraph.  
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*H. des Alpes.*  
**MOTTARONE**,  
**MONTE**, 463  
*Inn*, near the top (4675  
 ft.), built by Guglielmina  
 of Alagna, excellent,  
 moderate prices, very  
 civil people.  
 MOTTE, GRANDE, 621, 629  
 MOTTETS, CHALET OF, 560  
*Inn* (2 houses under  
 one roof), clean but  
 rough (25 beds).  
 MOUCHEROTTE, 632  
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 MOULEINA, COL DE, 533  
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**MOÛTIERS TAREN-**  
**TAISE**, 617  
*Hotels: H. Vizios*  
*(Couronne)*, good but not  
 always easy to get car-  
 riages; *H. des Courriers*  
*(Bertoli)*, fair—both on  
 the Square; *H. du Parc.*  
*Railway: To Albert-*  
*ville.*  
*Omnibus: To Bourg*  
*St. Maurice*, in 5 hrs.  
 — \* to ST. JEAN DE MAU-  
 Rienne by the Col de la  
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 — to ST. MICHEL by the  
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 — to MODANE by the Col  
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*Auberge*, 12 fr. a night  
 per person.  
 — PETITS, 556  
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MUSSA HUTS, 625  
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*Alb. dei Medici*, com-  
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 NANT, BON, WATERFALL, 547  
 — BORRANT, 559  
*Inn*, 12 beds, good  
 cooking.  
 — D'ARPENAZ WATERFALL,  
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*Hotels: Grand H. St.*  
*Nicolas*, large and com-  
 fortable; *H. Lochmatter*,  
 at upp. end of vill.;  
 smaller.  
*Guides: First-rate*  
*glacier guides*, but in  
 summer at Zermatt.  
 — \* to VISP, 489  
 — to ZERMATT, 489  
 — to GRUBEN by the Augst-  
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 — to ST. LUC in Val d'An-  
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 — DENT DU, 599  
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*Hôtel Royal*, a dépen-  
 dance of the Grand Hôte

**Noasca—contd.**

at Ceresole. 1-horse carriage to Cuornè, 16 fr.; mule to Ceresole, 6 fr.  
**NOASCHETTA WATERFALL**, 582  
**NOIR, LAC**, 559  
 — **Roc**, 509  
**NOIRE AIGUILLE, LA**, 566  
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**OLLE, COMBE D'**, 633  
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*Alb. della Croce Bianca*, well situated on the lake, very fair.  
 — to **VARALLO** by the **Val Strona** and the **Colle di Campello**, 465; by **Monte Massuccone**, 466  
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 —\* to **MAUVOISIN** by the **Val de Bagnes**, 538  
**ORSO, BUCO DEL**, 459  
**ORTA**, 463  
**Hotels**: *Alb. San Giulio*, homely; *Leone d'Oro*; *Garibaldi*, at the stat.; on the hill of the **Sacro Monte** is the good *Alb. Belvédère*, with a pretty garden. The tiny steamer no longer plies on the lake. Carriage with one horse to (15 m.) **Borgo Sesia rly. stat.**, 20 fr.  
 — **LAGO D'**, 436, 439, 463  
 — **MONTE SACRO D'**, 464  
 — to **VARALLO**, 464  
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*Grand Hôtel*; *Alb. del Vapore*, bad.  
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**OULAZ, GOLETTE DE L'**, 571  
**OULX**, 609, 643  
*H. des Alpes Cottiennes*, fair; *H. du Lion d'Or*.  
**OURSINE, MONTAGNE D'**, 639  
**OVARDA, TORRE D'**, 625  
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*Alb. del Gallo*; *Rosa Rossa*.  
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**PAIN DE SUCRE (MONT CHETIF)**, 528, 537; (near **Casteldelfino**), 659

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**PALLANZA**, 435, 439

**Hotels**: *Grand H. de Pallanza* (250 beds), good, *Grand H. Eden*, good, best situated; *H. Metropole* and *Poste*; and several others.

**Eng. Ch. S. (C.C.C.S.)**: at **Grand Hôtel**.

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**PARADIS, GRAND**, 531, 578, 584

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**PAUL SUR UBAYE, ST.**, 663, 666

*H. Hellion*, good.

**PAUVRES, COL DES**, 540

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**PECCIA**, 444

*Small Inn*.

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**PEISEY, AIG. DU MIDI DE**, 619, 628

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*H. Collin*.

— to **CHAMPAGNY** in **Val de Prémou** and **Moûtiers Tarentaise**, 619, 627

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*Alb. del Pesce*.

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**PELVOUX, MONT**, 638

**PÉRIADES, LES**, 551

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**PEROSA ARGENTINA**, 644  
**Hotels** : *H. National*, good ; *Alb. del Sole*, comfortable.  
**PÉROUSE**, 644  
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**PERRIER, LE**, 644  
**Hotels** : *Caccia Reale*, fair ; *Rosa Rossa*.  
**PERROC, DENT**, 514, 516  
**PERRON, LE**, 562  
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**PESTARENA**, 468  
*H. des Alpes*, tolerable ; *Alb. delle Miniere*, simple.  
**PÉTERET, AIGUILLE NOIRE** DE, 530, 561  
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**PETIT CŒUR**, 617  
**PETRIOLO HUTS**, 469  
**PHARE DE GESSENS**, 596  
**PIANO DI FIORENZA**, 656  
— **DEL RE**, 656  
*Albergo Alpino*, rather rough, but civil people and fine situation.  
— **LAGO**, 454  
— **MELZÉ**, 656  
**PIANPRATO**, 580  
**PIANTONETTO, VAL**, 578, 581  
**PICCOLA, VAL**, 478  
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**PIÈCE GLACIER**, 515  
**PIEDICAVALLLO**, 486  
*Alb. della Mologna*, fair.  
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*Corona Grossa* ; *Piedimuléra*.  
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**Hotels** : *Fontana* ; *Fontanet* ; *Buffet*.  
**PIERRE À BÉRANGER**, 552  
— **À L'ECHELLE**, 550  
— **À VOIR**, 538, 543  
— **POINTUE**, 550  
*Pavillon* (2 beds), a dépendance of the Grands Mulets Inn.

**PIERRE, BOURG ST.**, 532  
*H. du Déjeuner de Napoléon*, good food and low prices, but dirty.  
**Guide** : Daniel Balley acts no longer, but his sons know neighbourhood well.  
— **TOUR DU GRAND ST.**, 578  
**PIETRAPORZIO**, 663  
**PIEVI, TRE**, 456  
**PIGNEROL (PINEROLO)**, 646  
**Hotels** : *Campana* ; *Cannon d'Or* ; and others.  
—\* to BRIANÇON by the Col de Sestrières, 643  
— to MONT DAUPHIN by the Vaudois valleys and the Col de la Croix, 647  
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*H. de la Grivola*, opened in 1896, good and clean.  
— **D'AEL**, 576  
— **DE BEAUVOISIN**, 604  
**Hotels** : *H. de la Poste* ; *Cours* ; *Commerce*.  
— **ST. MARTIN**, 484, 521  
**Hotels** : *Cavallo Bianco* ; *Rosa Rossa*, clean and fair.  
— **DE CLAIX**, 632  
— **DES SARRASINS**, 522  
— **SERRAND**, 590  
— **ST. CLAIR**, 594  
**PONT CANAVESE**, 581  
**Hotels** : *Alb. Valentino*, clean and fair quarters ; *Corona Grossa*.  
— to TURIN, 581  
—\* to COGNE and AOSTA by the Col della Nouva, 579  
— to VILLENEUVE by the Val d'Orco and Val Savaranche, 581  
— to VAL D'ISÈRE by the Col de la Galise, 583  
— to BONNEVAL, in the valley of the Arc, by the Col du Carre, 583  
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**PONTE CAPRIASCA**, 454  
**PONTE GRANDE**, 467, 478  
*Alb. al Ponte Grande*, fine view, tolerable.  
**Carriages** : 1-horse carr. to Ceppo Morelli in 1 hr., 5 fr.  
**Mules** : May be hired here.  
—\* to VARALLO by the Baranca pass and Fobello, 477 ; \*by the Col d'Orchetta and Rimella, 465  
—\* to CARCOFORO and RIMASCO by Col d'Egua, 478  
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**Steam Tramway:** To *Menaggio*, 1 hr.

**Carriages:** Carr. for *Menaggio* are in waiting for passengers who do not use tramway, 2-horse carr. 12 fr.

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PRA, BERGERIE DE, 652

*Inn*, fair mountain quarters.

PRA DEL TOR, 651

PRA, LA, 632

*Inn* (kept by one of the *Couttets* of *Chamonix*), fair mountain quarters.

PRADLÈVES, 661

*Angelo*, very fair.

PRAGELAS, 643

PRALI. *See* GHIGO.

—\* to BOBBIO, 652

**PRALOGNAN**, 628

**Hotels:** *Hôtel de la Grande Casse & du Petit Mont Blanc*, new, very well spoken of; *H. de la Vanoise* (*Favre*), much fallen off; both at the hamlet of *Le Barioz*, next above church town, good headquarters for Tarentaise mountains.

**Guides:** The *Amiez* are fair local guides.

— to LANSLEBOURG by the Col de la Vanoise, 628

— to MODANE by the Col d'Aussois, 628; by the Col de Chavière, 628

—\* to MOÛTIERS TAREN- TAISE, 626

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Small mountain *Inn*, poor accommodation and scanty food.

PRARION, 547, 558

*Inn.*

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*Scudo di Francia*, fair.

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*Inn*, good.

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*Inn*, small and rather rough.

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*H. Weisshorn*, greatly enlarged and very good.

— to ZERMATT, 490

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REGOLEDO, 457. *Hydrop. establishment* (150 bed-rooms), pension from 9 fr. Funicular rly. to the pier at Varenna.

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*H. des Alpes Pennines*, good food, civil people.

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Beds and hospitable reception at the *curé's*. The village *Cantine* is poor, but better than it looks, and people very civil.

— ST. GEORGE DE, 585

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**English Ch.** (Holy Trinity, C.C.C.S.): close to *H. Riffelalp*.

— to the GORNER GRAT, 492

— to MACUGNAGA, or the Mattmark See, by the New Weissthor pass, 500

— to ALAGNA or GRESSONEY by the Lysjoch (*Silber*) pass, 500

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*Alb. Tagliaferro*, good

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— to MACUGNAGA, 478

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Rude but tolerable *Inn*, with baths, very civil people.

— to PONTE GRANDE by the Col d'Egua, 478

— to MACUGNAGA, by Bocchetta di Carcoforo, 478

—\* to ALAGNA by the Col de Figlino, or Col de Moud, 478



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*Albergo delle Alpi*  
 (Fontana), fair but dear.  
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*Alb. delle Alpi*, good,  
 kept by Guglielmina.  
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*H. Rovio*, good; *P.*  
*Monte Generoso*, pension  
 5 to 6 fr. **Eng. Ch. S.** in  
 summer at the latter.  
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**SAAS GRUND**, 473  
*Hotel: Monte Moro*,  
 small but good and clean.  
*Small Inn (H. Weissmies)*  
 above the Triftalp, 3 hrs.  
 from Saas Grund. *See*  
*FEE.*  
**Eng. Ch.** (St. Augus-  
 tine's): (S.P.G.).  
**Guides:** Alex. Bur-  
 gener and his two  
 brothers, Franz and  
 Aloïs, Ambrose and  
 Alfons *Supersax*, Theo-  
 dor, Basil, and Adolf  
*Andenmatten*, Abraham  
 and Josef *Imseng*, and J.  
 M. and P. J. *Burgener*  
 are good. Glacier ex-  
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*geries*, fair; *Mont Blanc.*  
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*H. des Voyageurs*, fair.  
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**Hotels:** *Corona Grossa*, good; *Gallo*.

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**Hotels:** *H. & P. de Salvan et des Gorges du Triège*, good; *Grand Hôtel*; *H. & P. de l'Union*, cheap; *Bellevue*. At *Marecotte*, above Salvan, *P. de l'Espérance*.

**Guides:** François *Fournier*; *Gaspard Coquoz* —both good.

**SALVATORE, MONTE**, 452

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**Hotels:** *Croix d'Or*; *Commerce*.

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—\* to MORZINE and THONON by the Col de Jouplane, 574, 575

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**Hotels:** *Posta*; *Angelo*.

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*H. Wiard*, good.

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*Inn*, clean, kept by *Giuseppe Topini*.

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*Alb. Deblasi*, charges vary; *Alb. Valsesia*; *Alb. Nazionale*.

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At the village is the *Rosa Rossa*, comfortable.

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**SIROL, TÊTE DE**, 670

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**Hotel:** *Fer à Cheval*, large house, once a convent, built 1622, fair.

**Guides with a tariff:** *Buet*, 18 fr.; *Fer à Cheval*, 2 fr. 50 c.; *Lac de Gers*, 12 fr.; *Chamonix*, 18 fr.; *Champéry* by Col de la Golèse, 13½ fr.; by Col de Sagerou, 15 fr.

—\* to GENEVA, 568

—\* to CHAMONIX by the Col d'Anterne and Col du Brévent, 571

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Travellers are received  
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*H. Carengo.*

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Hotel: *H. Stalden*,  
very good; *Buffet* at stat.

— to GRUBEN, 490

— to SIMPLON, 489

—\* to SAAS, 477

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THE, 575

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STOFFELHORN, 480

STRESA, 441

Hotels: *H. des Îles  
Borromées*, a most agree-  
able residence, but prices  
rather high; *H. Royal*,  
another large hotel; *H.  
de Milan*; *H. d'Italie*—  
both good; *P. Beauséjour*,  
large garden.

Eng. Ch. S. (C.C.C.S.):  
at *H. des Îles Borromées*.

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*Corona Grossa*; *Croce  
Bianca*.

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Hotels: Bad, charges  
high — *Antica Posta*;  
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Hotels: *H. de l'Ab-  
baye* (on the lake); *H.*

TALLOIRES—*contd.*

*Beausite*; *H. Bellevue*,  
fair; *Fontaine*, all three  
in the village. *Villas* to  
be hired for the season.

TAMIER PASS, 444

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Hotels: *H. des Ba-  
lances*; *Lion d'Or*.

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*H. de l'Ancienne Poste*.

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*H. National. See DAL-  
MAZZO DI TENDA, SAN.*

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*Inn* (8 beds), much im-  
proved in 1891, all the  
rooms are now connected  
by a covered gallery with  
the dining room and  
the kitchen; w.c.; se-  
parate buildings for the  
guides.

THEODULHORN, 503

THEOLINDA, QUEEN, 456

THERMIGNON, 611

*Lion d'Or*, recom-  
mended.

THOMAS, CAMP OF PRINCE,  
589

THÔNES, 594, 602

Hotels: *Plan-Palais*;  
*Midi*; *Cheval Blanc*.

— to CHAMPÉRY or MOR-  
GINS, 575

— to TANINGES, 574

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*H. Roux*.

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619

— \* to VAL GRISANCHE by  
the Cols de la Loys  
Blanche and du Tachuy,  
588

THUILLE, LA, on the Little  
St. Bernard, 589

*H. National*, good food,  
clean beds and rooms,  
though outside of house  
is not attractive; *H.  
du Glacier du Rutor*,  
fair.

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479

TICINO (Tessin), Valleys of,  
442

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Hotels: *Chez Révial  
David* (*H. du Club Alpin*),  
fair quarters, in a side  
lane; *Chez Révial Floren-  
tin* (*H. des Touristes*),  
on the Place. Neither  
inn good, David's has  
separate building for  
travellers, but best to  
push on to new, com-  
fortable hotel at Val  
d'Isère.

— VAL DE, 621. LAC DE,  
620.

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587; by the Col de la  
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   Hotels: *Ours*, good; *Lion de St. Marc*.  
 — COL DU (Chamonix), 567  
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 — COL DE LA, 566  
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   *Rose Rouge*, humble, but clean beds.  
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   *Pavillon*, 4 beds, reasonable prices.  
 — COL DE, 565  
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   *Alb. Bazzoni*.  
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 — TÊTE DE LA, 579  
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   *Grand Hotel*, new; *Midi*; *Alpes*; *Glacier du Trient*.  
 TRIFT ALP, 474  
   Above it is *H. du Weissmies*, fair.  
 TRIFTGRÄTLI, 474  
 TRIFTHORN, 502  
 TRIFTJOCH (Zermatt), 502, 510  
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   *H. and P. de la Dent du Midi*; *Mont Rose*.  
 TROIS TORRENTS, 574. *Inn*.  
 TROSSÉ BLANC, 529  
 TRUBETZKOI, VILLA, 459  
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   Hotels: *H. d'Europe*; *H. Trombetta*, formerly *Feder*, both excellent; *Grand H. de Turin*, oppos. stat., good, under Swiss management; *H. d'Angleterre*, same owner as the Grand Hôtel at Ceresole, good.  
   Eng.Ch. S. (C.C.C.S.): in the Corso del Re.  
 — to AOSTA and COURMAYEUR, 520  
 — \* to CHAMBÉRY by the Mont Cenis, 605  
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   Hotels: *Grand Hôtel*; *H. du Cercle*; *H. Monnet*; *H. du Rocher*; and many others.  
 URNÄSCH, 435  
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 — PYRAMIDES, D', 513  
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   *Alb. Cibrario*, rough.  
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   *Croix*.  
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 — SAVARANCHE, 578, 584  
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**VALDIERI**, 669  
   Inns, poor. At Baths a good Hotel (pension 9 fr.), well conducted by a company, excellent quarters for exploring neighbourhood.  
 — to ST. MARTIN LANTOSQUE by the Col delle Finestre, 671  
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   *Chez Giraud*, at upper end of village, near telegraph office, poor, good beds, but dear; *Chez Magnin*; *Chez Rambaud*; *Chez Ogier*, all village inns.  
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**VALLORCINE**, 562  
   Hotels: *H. du Buet* (at La Poyaz); *H. Suisse du Châtelard*; *H. de la Tête Noire*, recently rebuilt.  
**VALLOUISE**, 638  
   Hotels: *H. d'Ailefroide*, *chez Rolland*, same owner as the new inn at Ailefroide; *H. des Ecrins*, *chez Veuve Lagier*, good; *Mont Pelvoux*, *chez Gauthier*, dirty, but clean beds and good food.  
 VALPELLINE, 537, 542  
   At *Cantine* below the church, capital fare and clean beds, but accommodation rough; *H. de la Croix Blanche*, clean beds; *Leone d'Oro*, well spoken of.



**VALPELLINE**—*contd.*

— **PASSES FROM**, 517. Col de, 501, 518

**VALSAVARANCHE**. See **DÉGIOZ**.

**VALSOREY**, COL DE, 532. Glacier, 533

**VALTOURNANCHE**, 504

*H. du Mont Rose*, unpretending, but comfortable and good.

— to **AYAS** or **BRUSSON** by the Col de Portola, 505

**VANDALINO**, 649, 651

**VANOISE**, COL DE LA, 628

**VANZONE**, 468

*H. des Chasseurs*, poor.

**VARAITA**, VAL, 659. Passes from, 660

**VARALLO**, 460; **Sacro Monte**, 460

**Hotels**: *Alb. d'Italia*, kept by the Guglielmina family (who own also the inns at Alagna, at Riva Valdobbia on the Col d'Olen, and on Monte Mottarone), good, excellent cuisine, good carriages and horses; *Posta*; *Croce Bianca*; *Parigi*; *Tre Re*.

**Restaurant**: *H. Sacro Monte*, at the gate of the Sanctuary.

**Diligences**: Twice daily to *Alagna*.

—\* to **ORTA** and **BAVENO** by the Col de Colma 464

—\* to **ARONA**, 460

— to **OMEGNA** by the Col de Campello, 465; by Monte Massucone, 466

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— to **PONTE GRANDE** (Val Anzasca) by **Fobello** and the Baranca pass, 477; by the Col d'Orchetta, 465, 478

— to **RIMASCO** and **RIMA**, 478

— to **MACUGNAGA** by the Bocchetta di Carcoforo, 478

**VARENNA**, 457

*Albergo Reale* (*Marcioni's*), good and clean.

**VARENS**, AIGUILLE DE, 546, 553

**VARESE**, 439, 448, 450  
*Grand H. Varese*, well kept, large house with garden, outside town.

**Eng. Ch. S.** (C.C.C.S.).

**VARIA**, VAL, 475

**VARRONE**, VAL DI, 457

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**VÉLAN**, MONT, 533, 536

**VENASCA**, 660

**VÉNI**, VAL DE, 561

**VÉNOSC**, 634

*Chez Giraud*, clean rooms, at Bourg d'Arud on the high road; *Chez Balme*, at the upper end of the village, near the church, rough quarters; mules and chars at Giraud's.

— COL DE, 630

**VENTIMIGLIA**, 674

**VÉRAN**, ST., 668

*H. Fine*; *Aub. Isnel*.

— COL DE ST., 660

**VERBANUS**, LACUS (LAGO MAGGIORE), 438

**VERDON VALLEY**, 666

**VERGELETTTO**, 446

**VERGIA**, PUNTA, 646

**VERNAYAZ**, 564

**Hotels**: *H. des Gorges du Trient*, a handsome house, close to the gorges; *Victoria d'Alpes*; *Gare*. At Gueuroz sur Vernayaz is *H. des Rochers*.

**Eng. Ch. S.** (S. P. G.): at *H. des Gorges*.

**Guides**: *Fr. Fournier*, and *Gaspard Coquoz*, both at Salvan, are good guides for the Dent du Midi.

— to **CHAMONIX** by the Trient valley, \*561

**VERNEY**, LAC, 590

— LE, 611

*Croix Blanche*, poor and dear.

**VERRA**, COL DE, 501

**VERRES**, 487, 522

**Hotels**: *Italie*; *Ecu de France*.

**VERTE**, AIGUILLE, 551, 557

**VÉRY**, COL DE, 591

**VERZASCA**, VAL, 445

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*Cantine des Voyageurs*.

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*H. Clot*.

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— **VALLOUISE**, 638. See **VALLOUISE**.

**VILLENEUVE** (in the Val d'Aosta), 527

*Cerf*, improved, good food and not dear; *Union*.

—\* to **PONTE** in the Val d'Orco, by the Col de la Croix de Nivolet, 581

**VILLEVIEILLE**, 653

*Eléphant*.

**VINADIO**, 662

*Alb. d'Italia*, fair.

— **BATHS**, 663

**VINCENT**, ST., **BATHS**, 488, 522

**Hotels**: *Lion d'Or*, good accommodation; *Corona*.

**VINCENT**, FORT ST., 664

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**VINCENHÜTTE**, 480, 483

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At the point where the main path leaves the Bernina road there is a *Cantine* at Sfazzù, while on the other side of the pass there are rough inns at Semogo and Isolaccia.

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**VISAILLE**, 560

*Cantine*, 5 beds, accommodation simple.

**VISO**, MONTE, 654–659; Tour of, 657; Passo dei, 657; Pertuis du, 655

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 VISOMOUT OR VISOMOZZO, 657  
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*Poste* (same owners as chief Saas Fee inns); *Soleil*, good and moderate; *Alpes* (same owners as H. de Saas Fee at that village); *Restaurant de la Gare*, good.

— to ZERMATT, 489

—\* to SAAS and MACUGNAGA by the Monte Moro pass, 471

VISSOYE, 509

*H. d'Anniviers*, recommended; *H. des Alpes*.

VIV, 626

*Corona Reale*, fair; and others.

VIVA, ROSSA, 578

VIZILLE, 632. CHÂTEAU, 632

*H. Mitton*; *Prat*.

VOGOGNA, 435

*Corona*, fair.

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*H. de l'Ermitage*; *H. du Chalet des Voirons*.

VOLTA, birthplace, 455

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VOZA, COL DE, 547, 558

*Pavillon du Col*, on the true pass, but now closed; *Pavillon Bellevue*, 6 beds, ½ hr. above true pass.

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**Hotels:** *H. Zermatt*; *Monte Rosa*; *Mont Cervin*; all excellent, kept by the Seiler family, which also owns the two hotels on the Riffel, that on the Gornergrat, and that near the Schwarzsee. Of these the *H. & P. Riffel Alp* is preferable for prolonged stay, but not equally suitable for all excursions. In Aug. and Sept. hotels often full, advisable to telegraph for rooms long in advance. *H. de la Poste*, in village. *H. Terminus*, opened 1894, good; *H. Bellevue*; *H. d'Angleterre*; *H. Gornergrat*, all four outside the village and near the stat. *Railway Restaurant* (Seiler). *German Beer* at *Bierhalle*, attached to H. du Mont Cervin.

**Eng. Ch.** (St. Peter's): above village; and another near Riffel Alp, both C.C.C.S.

**English Bankers:** *Galland & Co.*

**English Physician:** Dr. A. Gamgee.

**Guides:** Aloïs Pollinger and son; Alex. Burgener, and his brothers Franz and Aloïs; Peter Knubel and his son Caesar; Gabriel Taugwalder; J. Moser; Ambrose Supersax; A. Gentinetta; P. J. Truffer; J. Imboden; Abraham Imseng; J. M. Lockmatter; these are the best. Many others can generally be trusted on all but very difficult expeditions. The native Zermatt guides are not distinguished in their profession, but those living

## ZERMATT—*contd.*

in winter at St. Niklaus, Saas, and Macugnaga are generally here during season. Authorized *Tarif* for all glacier expeditions.

**Mules:** By the day 10 fr. and 1 fr. Trinkgeld.

**Horses:** To St. Théodule for 2 hrs., 10 fr.; 3 hrs., 15 fr.

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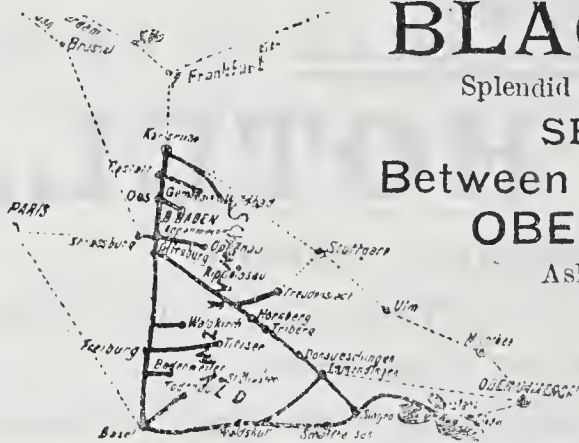
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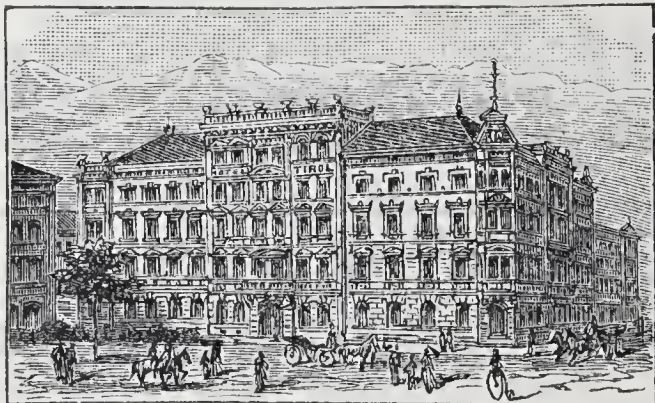
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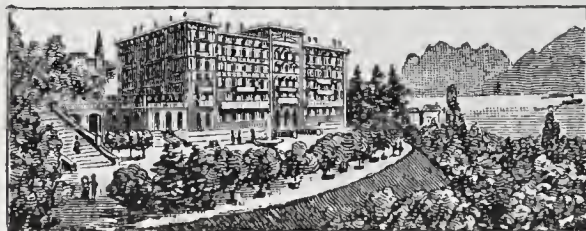
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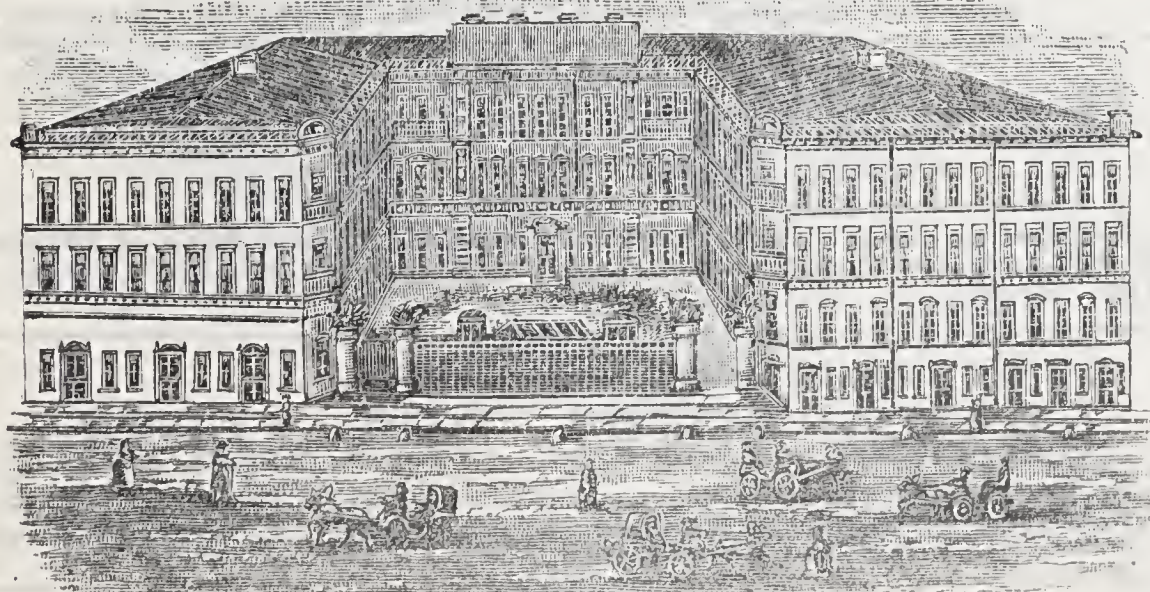
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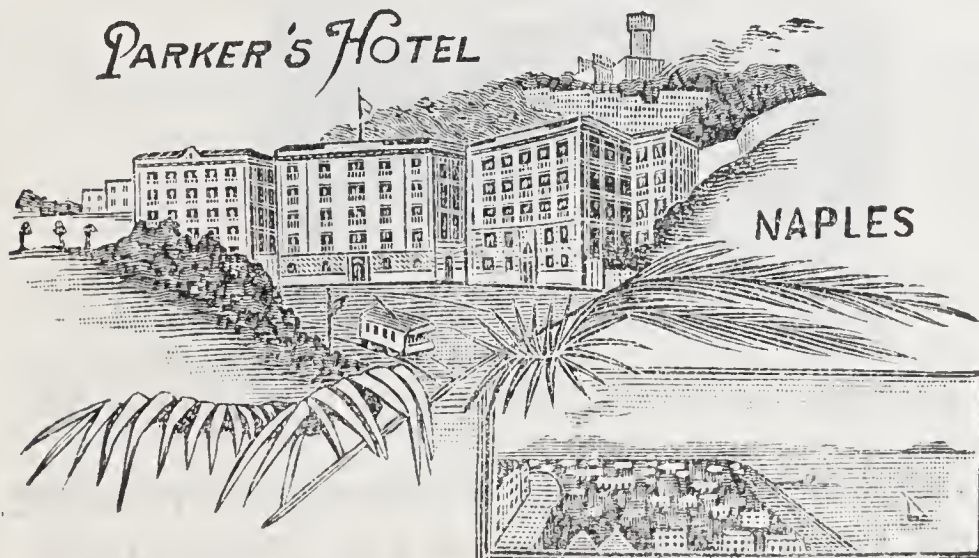
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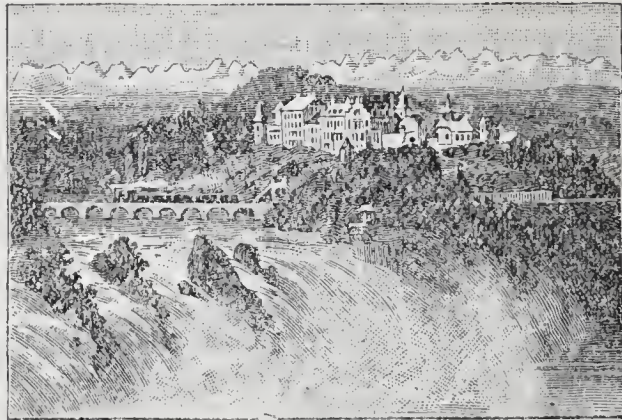
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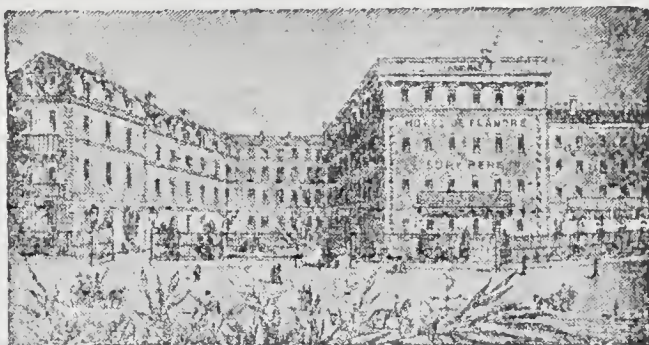
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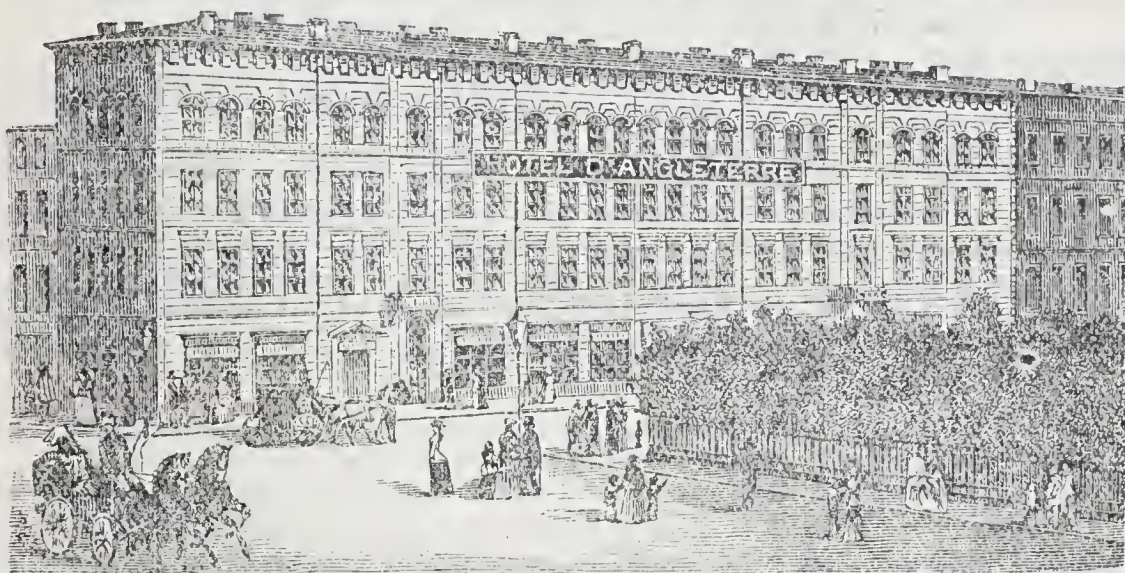
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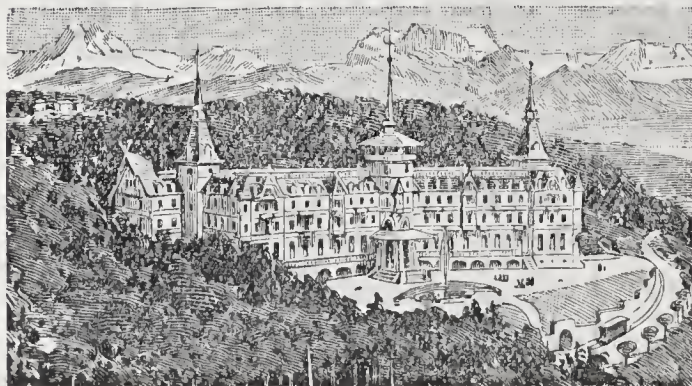
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